Lamu East records first birth certificate issuance in historic access breakthrough On PG 3

BUNGE Weekly

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PLENARY • COMMITTEES • GENERAL • CLIQUE & CLICKS • BUNGE MASHINANI • WEEK IN HISTORY

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Monday,April 20th, 2026 to Monday, April 27th, 2026

New law slashes fuel tax by eight percent, offering lifeline to Kenyan households

STORY ON PAGE 2



H.E President William Ruto signs a vellum at State House, Nairobi County

E-COPY

CS Murkomen, IG Kanja to face MPs over rising political violence, banditry crisis



Interior Cabinet Secretary Hon. Onesimus Kipchumba Murkomen and Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja are set to appear before the National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security next week to address the country's deteriorating security situation.

His appearance comes amid growing concern over a surge in politically instigated violence reported in several regions, where organised groups of youths have allegedly been hired to disrupt public gatherings, intimidate perceived opponents and, in some cases, engage in confrontations with security agencies.

The summons also follows an escalation in banditry attacks, particularly in pastoralist areas, where armed raiders have made away with large herds of cattle, camels, goats and sheep. The incidents have not only resulted in significant economic losses for affected communities but have, at times, led to fatalities.

Members of the Committee are expected to press the Interior ministry to outline concrete measures being taken to restore order, curb political violence and contain the persistent threat of banditry, which continues to undermine security and livelihoods in vulnerable parts of the country.

Speaking on the floor on Thursday, Narok West MP, Hon Gabriel Tongoyo, who chairs the Departmental Committee on Administration and

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PLENARY

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President William Ruto has signed into law the Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 21 of 2026), paving the way for a reduction in fuel prices amid rising global supply pressures linked to instability in the Middle East.

The legislation, which was fast-tracked by the National Assembly of Kenya, reduces Value Added Tax (VAT) on petroleum products by 50 per cent—from 16 per cent to 8 per cent—in a move aimed at cushioning households and businesses from escalating energy costs. The Bill now Act, sponsored by the Leader of the Majority Party, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah was introduced and passed on April 16, 2026, without amendments following a request from the Executive for urgent intervention to stabilise fuel prices.

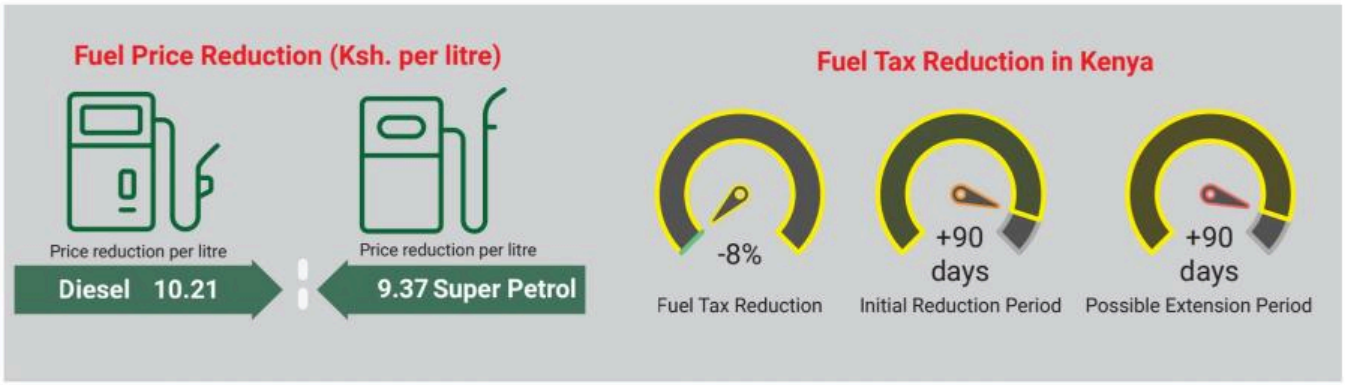
The Act provides for reduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) on petroleum products by 50% from the current 16% to 8%," the official brief states, noting that the move goes beyond the limits set under Section 6 of the VAT Act, which caps reductions by the Cabinet Secretary at 25 per cent.

Under the new law, the reduced VAT rate will apply for an initial period of 90 days. The Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury is further empowered to extend the relief for an additional 90 days if necessary, offering flexibility in response to evolving global market conditions.

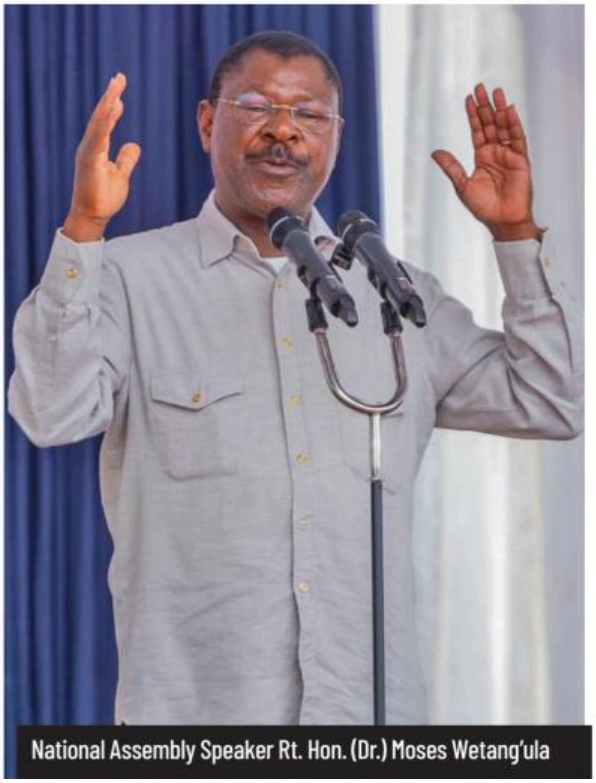
The law stipulates that the tax cut takes effect from April 15, 2026, aligning with the date of the President's request to Parliament. The implications for consumers are immediate.

The government projects that the reduction will lower the price of super petrol by KSh 9.37 per litre and diesel by KSh 10.21 per litre. Government analysts and the National Assembly leadership maintain that the reduction is a strategic necessity to prevent a cost-of-living crisis. "An escalation of the cost of fuel has a 'knock-on' effect on the cost of consumer goods and services.

This reduction is meaningful and shall significantly ease the burden on Kenyan households with respect to transport costs and the cost of essential goods," the brief noted.



Speaker Wetang'ula urges MPs to help deliver IDs as House raises alarm over delays nationwide


National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula

National Assembly Speaker Moses Masika Wetang'ula has directed Members of Parliament to take a more active role in ensuring national identification cards reach applicants, even as lawmakers raised concern over persistent delays and inequities in the processing and issuance of IDs across the country.

Speaking in the House, the Speaker reminded MPs that Parliament facilitates staff in their constituency offices who can be deployed to bridge the gap between issuance and collection of the critical documents.

"Hon. Members, as the Parliamentary Service Commission, I employ staff for you in your field offices. You have a duty to use the staff we pay to assist in delivering those IDs to your constituents," said Wetang'ula.

"We cry that there are no IDs, yet when they are issued, no one picks them up. They are piled up in the offices of assistant county commissioners and chiefs."

He urged legislators to leverage their offices to identify applicants whose IDs are ready and ensure they are delivered promptly, noting that the same personnel are already used effectively in public participation exercises.

The Speaker's remarks followed a request for a Statement by Mandera South MP Abdul Haro, who painted a grim picture of delays in North Eastern Kenya, warning that the situation risks disenfranchising thousands of eligible youth.

Haro told the House that despite a recent directive by the Ministry of Interior and National Administration promising ID processing within three to seven days—alongside same-day service in Nairobi many applicants in northern Kenya have waited for more than six months.

"This delay raises serious concerns regarding equitable access to Government services," he said. "With the ongoing voter registration exercise by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), these delays risk disenfranchising eligible youth and undermining their constitutional right to vote."

He further raised alarm over reports from Mandera Central Sub-County, where duplicate ID cards were allegedly issued to individuals who already possessed valid documents, while new applicants remained unserved.

In his request, Haro demanded a comprehensive report detailing the number of IDs processed per county and sub-county, average processing timelines, causes of delays in northern Kenya, and measures to address both duplication errors and systemic inefficiencies.

participation exercises.

(CONTINUED) FROM PAGE 1



Narok West MP Gabriel Tongoyo, who chairs the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security during a committee session at County Hall, Parliament Buildings.

Internal Security, acknowledged the gravity of the issue but urged patience ahead of a comprehensive ministerial statement.

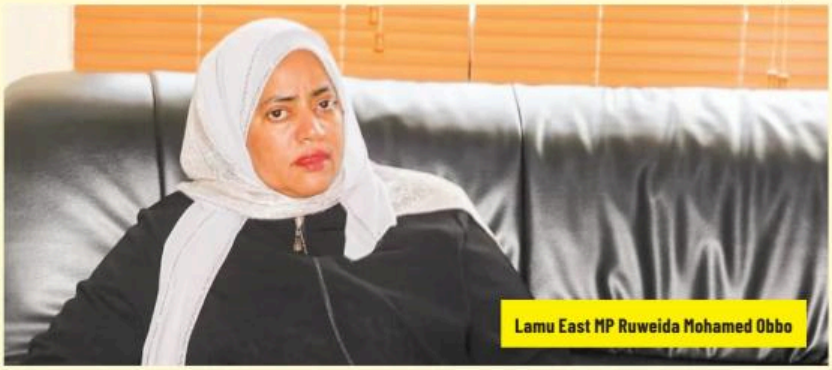
"I do not want to pre-empt the minister's response, but I want to assure the country that security agencies are actively addressing the situation," he said, pointing to improved calm in parts of the North Rift.

"While we remain seized of emerging concerns in Meru and other parts of the country, I wish to affirm that our state agencies are equal to the task. I urge Members of Parliament, particularly those available, to attend the session on Tuesday at 10am in the Mini Chamber to interrogate both the Cabinet Secretary and the Inspector-General of Police on these critical security issues." Hon. Tongoyo added:

National Assembly Speaker, Hon (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula directed that the Interior Cabinet Secretary appear before the Committee on Tuesday to respond to the concerns raised by MPs.

He asked Members of Parliament who have been affected to come and explain their issues directly during the meeting. "So when the minister appears before you on Tuesday, members with issues, whether you are Samburu or Meru, go before the Committee the minister will be in the mini chamber with the Committee and prosecute your case," said Speaker Wetang'ula.

Lamu East records first birth certificate issuance in historic access breakthrough



Lamu East MP Ruweida Mohamed Obbo

Residents of Lamu East Constituency have, for the first time since independence, begun accessing birth registration services within their locality, marking a major milestone in the government's push to decentralise essential services.

The breakthrough, announced in the National Assembly by Lamu East MP Ruweida Mohamed, follows the issuance of the first birth certificate in the constituency on April 8, 2026, a development that ends decades of hardship for residents who previously travelled long distances to access the service in neighbouring Lamu West.

"This achievement is particularly noteworthy given that, previously, residents would travel long distances to Mokowe to access birth registration services," Ms. Mohamed told the House in a statement.

"The decentralisation of civil registration services to Lamu East marks a remarkable step towards enhancing access to essential government services, promoting inclusivity and safeguarding the rights of citizens."

For years, the absence of a local registration centre had locked out many residents from basic services tied to legal identity, including education, healthcare and financial access.

Without birth certificates, many children were unable to enroll seamlessly in school or benefit from government capitation programmes.

The MP said the new service would significantly ease the burden on families, improve efficiency in service delivery and strengthen the government's presence at the grassroots.

"This development underscores the importance of continual investment in administrative infrastructure and service delivery at the grassroots level," she added, while commending government agencies involved in making the milestone possible.

Kenya bets on AI and advanced research as MPs back elite Konza science institute

Kenya has taken a bold step toward positioning itself as Africa's hub for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and advanced scientific research after Members of Parliament approved the award of a charter for the establishment of the Kenya Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (Kenya-AIST) at Konza City.

Moving the motion, Hon. Samwel Chepkonga (Ainabkoi), who chairs the Committee, termed the institute "one of the most important developments that has ever taken place in this country," noting that Kenya must now pivot from mass university education to specialised, research-driven training.

"This is not a run-of-the-mill university," he said. "We are creating an institution that will advance digital and research skills, making our students competitive in a fast-evolving global labour market dominated by AI and innovation."

At the heart of the new institute is a strong emphasis on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) engineering, widely seen as the backbone for AI development. Lawmakers repeatedly underscored AI as a transformative force shaping economies, governance, healthcare, and security.

Hon. Beatrice Elachi (Dagoretti North) highlighted the global reputation of South Korea's KAIST, which Kenya-AIST is modelled after, noting its strength in AI and robotics research.

"If there is a university that is good in Artificial Intelligence, it is KAIST," she said. "This partnership gives Kenya a unique opportunity to train experts in areas like microchips, embedded systems and smart technologies that power AI."

The institute will offer master's and PhD programmes in fields such as ICT engineering, electrical and electronic engineering, and agro-biotechnology—disciplines closely linked to AI applications including automation, smart agriculture, and data-driven systems.

Hon. Millie Odhiambo (Suba North) pointed to the growing influence and challenges of AI in academia and everyday life.

"Technology is both today and tomorrow," she said. "Tasks that used to take months can now be done in minutes. But AI also raises new questions—how do we distinguish human work from machine-generated content? That is why we need specialised institutions to guide us."



Ainabkoi MP Hon. Samwel Chepkonga, who chairs the Committee on delegation during a Committee session at Bunge Towers, Parliament Buildings.

COMMITTEES' ROUND-UP

MPs tighten oversight of county bursaries after court ruling forces formal agreements



Members of the Departmental Committee on Regional Development pose for a group photo with Chairperson Hon. Peter Lochakapong in red shirt (Sigor) during their retreat in Mombasa, where they deliberated on intergovernmental agreements governing the administration of education bursaries and scholarships.

The National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Regional Development has moved to strengthen oversight of multi-million shilling county bursary programmes following a landmark High Court ruling that now requires formal agreements between the national and county governments.

Meeting in Mombasa on Friday, the Committee chaired by Sigor MP Hon. Peter Lochakapong deliberated on a series of Intergovernmental Partnership Agreements (IPAs), which have become a legal prerequisite for counties seeking to fund scholarships and bursaries for students in secondary schools, colleges and universities.

The shift to structured agreements follows guidance from the Office of the Controller of Budget and a subsequent High Court determination that county expenditure on education support programmes must be anchored in formal frameworks to ensure transparency, accountability and adherence to the Constitution.

During the session, the Committee reviewed agreements submitted by six counties — Nakuru, Kwale, Tana River, Wajir, Kisumu and Kirinyaga — all of which have sought to continue supporting learners through bursary schemes.

Anchored in Article 189 of the Constitution, the agreements are intended to safeguard cooperation between the two levels of government while respecting their distinct mandates. The law requires both national and county governments to perform their functions in a manner that preserves the institutional and functional integrity of each level.

Although the Committee acknowledged that the agreements had been duly signed and submitted to the National Assembly in line with the Intergovernmental Relations Act, members raised concerns over critical details within the frameworks.

"The aim is to establish a clear and effective system for supporting learners at all levels, but we must ensure the delineation of functions between the two levels of government is crystal clear," said Committee Chairperson Peter Lochakapong.

Despite the progress made, legislators expressed caution over the scope and implementation of the agreements, particularly the risk of counties encroaching on functions constitutionally assigned to the national government.

The Committee noted that striking a balance between counties' efforts to support needy students and maintaining constitutional boundaries remains a key challenge.

As part of the next phase, the Committee announced plans to invite key stakeholders and members of the public to submit their views. The engagement will help determine whether the proposed frameworks are legally sound, operationally effective and capable of withstanding future legal scrutiny while delivering meaningful support to learners across the country.

The outcome of the process is expected to shape the future of county-funded bursary programmes and redefine intergovernmental collaboration in the education sector.

Committee calls for expansion of Hadado Mini-Grid connections

The National Assembly Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy has visited the Hadado Mini-Grid Plant in Wajir West Constituency.

The Committee delegation under the Leadership of Chaiperson Hon. David Pkosing (Pokot South) has reiterated the need for speedy collaboration between the relevant stakeholders to ensure the project is fully functional.

Despite the plant being the sole source of power connection for the larger part of Hadado Sub-County, the mini-grid was found to be not performing optimally with residents going for most of the days without power.

The delegation also comprising area MP Hon. Yusuf Farah, Hon. Mwangi Kiunjuri (Laikipia East) and Hon. Sarah Korere (Laikipia North) also noted that most or the equipment at the facility was either obsolete or non-operational including Solar power conservation batteries and the standby generator.

The MPs also directed that more locals to pursue other alternative sources of power connection that were cost free.

"An additional 300 need to be connected to this mini-grid because it can support that. But You also need to connect these people to power without requiring them to make any payments under the last mile connectivity, noted Hon. Pkosing.



Chairperson of the Public Investments Committtee on Commercial Affairs andf Energy Hon. David Pkosing addresses residents during the inspection visit.

The Committee Chairperson indicated that

> **An additional 300 need to be connected to this mini-grid because it can support that. But You also need to connect these people to power without requiring them to make any payments under the last mile connectivity, noted Hon. Pkosing**

be connected to the power grid. there was also need for the relevant stakeholders

KFS updates old policies to improve ethnic balance and inclusion



Mr Alex Lemarkoko, the KFS Chief Conservator responding to queries from members of Committee during a meeting at Bunge Tower.



National Assembly Committee on Cohesion and Equal Opportunities chairperson Hon. Adan Yussuf Haji chairing a meeting with KFS Chief Conservator Mr. Alex Lemarkoko last week

Outdated human resource policies have held back the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) from meeting laws on ethnic balance and offering procurement opportunities to special interest groups, a House Committee has heard.

Mr. Alex Lemarkoko, Chief Conservator of Forests at KFS, told the National Assembly Committee on Cohesion and Equal Opportunities that the organisation has now revised its old human resource policies. This is to help KFS comply with the law and improve how it operates.

"The revised human resource policies were approved by the Public Service Commission last December, and we are now putting reforms in place to ensure compliance with the law on ethnic balance," he said during a meeting chaired by Hon. Adan Yussuf Haji (Mandera West).

He added that in the two years he has led the organisation, steps have been taken to ensure KFS staff reflect the diversity of Kenya.

He noted that ethnic imbalance at KFS is a long-standing issue, which the new policies aim to address.

Committee members, led by Hon. Haji, raised concerns about the lack of ethnic balance, gender equality, and inclusion of people living with disabilities (PLWDs) within KFS.

Mr. Lemarkoko assured the Committee that these gaps would be addressed in upcoming recruitment exercises.

On the inclusion of PLWDs, he explained that about 79 per cent of recruits undergo paramilitary training, which may not be suitable for some disabled persons, making their inclusion difficult under the current system.

However, Kamukunji MP Hon. Abdi Hassan urged KFS to learn from other disciplined services that have successfully employed PLWDs despite similar training requirements.

Mr. Lemarkoko responded that the revised policies would create more opportunities for PLWDs, and that progress would be reported in future appearances before the Committee.

He also told the Committee that 1,600 officers had recently been promoted after a long wait further noting that most trainees at the KFS college are women, giving them a better chance of employment and helping to improve the gender balance.

Hon Haji said KFS, as one of the oldest government agencies, should follow the law and set a good example for other state bodies.

Committee on Delegated Legislation back new mining royalty rules



The Vice-Chairperson of the Delegated Legislation Committee chairing a meeting with the officials from the Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs Ministry at Bunge Tower.

The National Assembly's Committee on Delegated Legislation has approved the proposed Mining (Mineral Royalty Sharing) Regulations, 2026, but flagged key concerns over the definition of beneficiary communities and persistent delays in disbursing funds.

The Committee, chaired by Vice Chairperson Hon. Robert Gichimu, met Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, Hon. Hassan Joho, and Mining Principal Secretary Harry Kimtai to deliberate on the new framework aimed at streamlining the sharing of mineral royalties.

Lawmakers questioned the lack of clarity in defining "community," warning that ambiguity could undermine the regulations' implementation. Kilgoris MP Hon. Julius Sunkuli emphasised the importance of precision, stating that a clear definition is critical to ensuring fairness in distribution.

Hon. Gichimu echoed the concern, noting that the success of the regulations hinges on a well-defined and legally sound interpretation of the term.

Samburu County Woman Representative Hon. Pauline Lenguris urged the government to prioritise host communities, insisting they should be the primary beneficiaries of proceeds from natural resources extracted from their land.

However, Lukuyani MP Hon. Innocent Mugabe praised the quality of the draft regulations, describing them as comprehensive and well-structured, even as he acknowledged the need for further scrutiny.

Questions were also raised about the extent of public participation conducted prior to the drafting of the regulations, with MPs seeking assurance that affected communities were adequately consulted.

Under the proposed framework, 10 per cent of mineral royalties will be allocated to local communities—an increase from the previous 2 per cent. The revenue-sharing formula apportions 70 per cent to the national government, 20 per cent to county governments, and 10 per cent to communities.

Hon. Gichimu called for robust public sensitisation to ensure communities understand their rights and the benefits due to them under the new framework. He stressed the need for strict enforcement to guarantee timely and equitable sharing of mineral revenues.

Committee told electricity prices will remain stable despite fuel hike

A parliamentary watchdog Committee has been assured that the increase in fuel prices will not lead to a rise in electricity prices.

The Public Accounts Committee received the assurance from the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Energy, Alex Wachira, during a meeting today.

During the session, members of the Committee raised concerns that the recent sharp increase in petroleum prices will hurt many Kenyans who are already struggling to provide for their families.

On Wednesday, the government announced new fuel prices, with diesel rising by a record Sh40 per litre and petrol increasing by Sh28. The new prices will remain in effect until 14 May, when the next review is due.

Session Chairperson Hon. Nabii Nabwera (Lugari), Hon. Marianne Kitany (Aldai) led MPs in demanding answers from the PS on why the prices were increased, despite earlier government assurances that they would remain stable and that safeguards were in place.



Hon. Nabii Nabwera (Lugari) chairing a session of the Public Accounts Committee on Wednesday, April 15, 2026

"Kenyans are enraged. The Ministry of Energy assured the country that there would be no change in fuel prices and no crisis, only for the same prices to rise by a record margin. What is the issue?"

Hon. Kitany noted that the country operates under a government-to-government (G2G) oil agreement, whose main aim is to stabilise fuel supply.

"The G2G deal was meant to protect Kenyans from such shocks. When prices rise, the system should absorb the shocks. So what has happened in this scenario?" posed Hon. Kitany.

She also asked the PS what measures the State Department would take to cushion Kenyans from the high cost of electricity that may result from the increase in diesel prices, as well as the rising cost of transport and food.

The PS assured the Committee that electricity prices are unlikely to rise significantly, explaining that only a small portion of electricity in the national grid is generated using diesel.

"As a ministry and State Department, we will do our best to ensure that power prices remain as stable as possible. We are increasing generation from hydropower and have also increased power imports from Ethiopia and Uganda," he added, noting that any potential adjustments in electricity prices would be minimal.

Energy Committee questions CS Opiyo over fuel stocks, hoarding claims, and contaminated oil shipment

The Departmental Committee on Energy has intensified scrutiny of the country's fuel security. MPs have questioned Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Hon. Opiyo Wandayi over reported shortages, procurement irregularities, and the impact of global tensions on supply.

In a meeting, chaired by Nakuru Town East MP Hon. David Gikaria, took place against rising public concern over long queues at petrol stations, and frequent "no fuel" notices. Lawmakers linked the situation to anxiety surrounding the Israel-Iran conflict and its potential disruption of global oil supply chains.

A key flashpoint was a contaminated fuel consignment supplied by One Petroleum, which was found to contain excessive levels of manganese, sulphur, and benzene—well above the Kenya Bureau of Standards' limits. Narok East MP and Committee Vice Chair, Hon. Lemaken Aramat, demanded accountability for any financial loss incurred.

"Tell us whether the country has incurred any losses in this case, and who should bear the cost of that loss," Hon. Aramat pressed.

CS Wandayi assured the Committee that the consignment had been excluded from the monthly pump price computation, preventing a significant price spike. "If that consignment had been factored in, prices would have risen by fourteen shillings per litre," he said.

The CS further distanced the shipment from the Government-to-Government (G to G) procurement framework, noting it lacked his formal approval. He defended the G to G model anchored on partnerships with international oil firms—as the most stable and flexible system for safeguarding supply.

Garissa Woman Representative, Hon. Amina Udgoon, however, raised concerns over transparency in the fuel procurement and pricing structure, calling for full disclosure of all pre-qualified suppliers. "Fuel is not just a commodity—it is the backbone of our economy, and any opacity in its procurement, pricing, and quality control is not just mismanagement, but negligence," she argued.

Despite the Ministry reporting reserves of 183,000 cubic metres of petrol and 132,000 cubic metres of diesel, Embakasi South MP Julius Mawathe dismissed the figures as inconsistent with the situation on the ground. "You can give us assurances here, but what we are seeing is different. We don't have fuel," he said.

CS Wandayi attributed the shortages to panic buying and hoarding by retailers anticipating price increases, revealing that the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority had issued 25 show cause letters to non-compliant firms and pledged enforcement action.

Lawmakers also pushed for local refining capacity, with Aramat arguing it would enhance quality control. Wandayi termed the proposal a commercial decision but disclosed efforts to facilitate Kenya's first commercial crude oil export before year-end. Meanwhile, Chairperson Hon. Gikaria said the Committee would review submissions and consider an inspection visit to Kenya Pipeline Company facilities to verify stock levels.



The Chairperson Departmental Committee on Energy Hon. David Gikaria during a meeting with energy and Petroleum ministry officials on the importation of the



The Departmental Committee on Energy during a meeting with the Ministry officials from Energy and Petroleum on the Importation of the substandard petroleum

substandard petroleum.

importation of the substandard petroleum.

House team raises alarm over rise of political gangs ahead of 2027 polls

A parliamentary Committee has raised alarm over the growing use of organised gangs in Kenya's political landscape warning that the trend poses a grave threat to national security as the country edges closer to the next General Election.

The National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security cautioned that the rise of political goons is quickly becoming a dangerous norm that must be addressed urgently.

Speaking during an official visit to assess the registration of birth and death certificates, as well as national identity cards in Sotik Constituency, members of the Committee warned that the country risks sliding into lawlessness if the situation is not contained.

The delegation included Hon. Dido Ali Rasso (Saku), Hon. Mburu Kahangara (Lari), Hon. Peter Kaluma (Homa Bay Town) and MP Hon. Peter Masara (Suna West).

"Two days ago in Parliament, the issue of marauding gangs was a major subject of discussion. In many parts of the country, these groups have become a nuisance and a serious threat to national security. They are targeting leaders, business people and even the police," said Hon. Rasso.

He said the problem has been worsened by political divisions, with rival sides blaming each other for the growing menace.

"The growing influence of political gangs must be stopped before it turns into a full-blown security crisis," he warned.

His remarks follow recent incidents of politically linked violence, including an attack on Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osotsi, which has renewed concerns over the use of hired groups to intimidate opponents and disrupt public events.

Mr. Rasso, who is also the Committee's Vice Chairperson, said such incidents point to a worrying return of militia-style operations seen in previous election periods, where groups were used to influence political outcomes through fear and chaos.



Saku MP Hon. Dido Ali Rasso, who is also the Vice Chairperson of the National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security, during a Committee session at Bunge Towers, Parliament Buildings.

Lawmakers review Hustler Fund and Uwezo Fund operations amid calls for reform



From left: Hon. Eve Obara, Principal Secretary MSMEs, Ms. Susan Mang'eni, Chairperson of the Committee, Hon. Fatuma Mohammed and Hon. Mary Emaase posing for a photo after a meeting.



Front row: Uwezo Fund CEO, Mr. Peter Lengapiani, Hustler Fund CEO, Mr. Henry Tanui, Principal Secretary MSMEs, Ms. Susan Mang'eni and Chairperson of Special Funds Account Committee Hon. Fatuma Mohammed flanked by the Committee Members present

The Special Funds Accounts Committee, chaired by Hon. Fatuma Zainab Mohammed, held a stakeholder engagement on April 16, 2026, with the State Department for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development, the Financial Inclusion Fund (Hustler Fund), and the Uwezo Fund, in a meeting focused on strengthening accountability, legal reforms, and expanding financial support to millions of Kenyans.

The consultative workshop brought together Principal Secretary Ms. Susan Mang'eni, Hustler Fund Chief Executive Officer Mr. Henry Tanui, and Uwezo Fund Chief Executive Officer Mr. Peter Lengapiani, alongside Members of Parliament and senior government officials.

Speaking during the meeting, Hon. Fatuma Mohammed emphasized that public funds must deliver measurable impact to citizens and be managed with the highest standards of integrity.

"Accountability is not a bureaucratic inconvenience, it is the foundation upon which public trust is built," she said, noting that the Committee's oversight role is aimed at correcting weaknesses, closing loopholes, and ensuring 'wananchi' benefit fully from the funds established to support them.

The Uwezo Fund leadership raised concerns over challenges in its legal framework, saying the Public Finance Management (Uwezo Fund) Regulations, 2014, no longer adequately respond to the evolving needs of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Officials noted that unresolved legal issues have affected key administrative processes, including gazettement procedures and renewal of terms for Constituency Uwezo Fund Management Committees, which oversee operations at the grassroots level.

Mr. Lengapiani appealed to the Committee to support the review of Legal Notice No. 21 in order to close identified gaps, align governance structures with current policies, and address recurring concerns over possible merger proposals.

Uwezo Fund sought extra resources to unlock its full potential, requesting KES. 400 million for loans to groups, KES. 200 million for completion of digitization and ICT infrastructure, KES. 156.6 million for constituency facilitation and KES. 76.4 million for additional operational support

On its part, the Hustler Fund sought Parliament's assistant in deepening public understanding of the Fund's impact, saying it currently serves over 22 million Kenyans.

The CEO, Mr. Tanui urged lawmakers to support more funding for nationwide financial literacy and public sensitization campaigns, as well as increased allocations to strengthen the Fund's liquidity and develop independent ICT systems.

The Committee pledged continued collaboration with the State Department and fund managers to ensure the Hustler Fund and Uwezo Fund remain effective tools for fighting inequality, creating jobs, and empowering grassroots enterprise across Kenya.

fully from the funds established to support them. its full potential, requesting, KES. 400 million for across Kenya.

Win for the National Assembly and Executive as the Supreme Court resolves dispute on the operation of Tribunals in Kenaya

This week, starting Monday, April 20th, the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining shall undertake rigorous public hearings on the proposed Amendments to the Forest Conservation and Management (Amendment) Bill, (National Assembly Bill No.38 of 2025.)

The Committee shall engage members of the public in two delegations of MPs that shall cover select regions across twelve Counties, in a span of five days.

"This engagement of the Public is critical if we are to make any Amendments to this Bill. Forestry matters are at the heart of every Kenyan and we must hear what they think about the proposals." Said Hon. Kamuren, in a meeting held at Bunge towers last Thursday.

The delegation led by the Committee chairperson Hon. Vincent Musyoka shall have meetings in Isiolo, Nyeri, Embu, Machakos, Makueni, Kilifi and Kwale Counties on Monday to Friday.

The second delegation of Legislators shall be led by the Committee's vice chairperson Hon. Charles Kamuren starting with Kisumu, Kakamega, Kericho,Uasin Gishu, and Nakuru Counties.

The Bill sponsored by the Leader of the Majority Party; seeks to amend the Forest Conservation and Management Act, Cap. 385 to align it with modern realities, contemporary global discourse on forestry conservation and management.

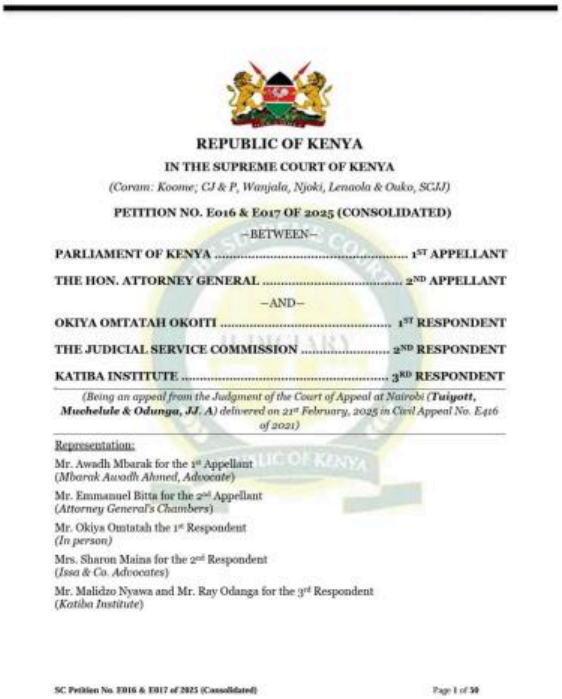
Among the proposed changes, the Bill provides for the establishment of the headquarters of the Kenya Forest Service and requires the devolution of its services across the country. It also outlines additional functions of the Service, including the development of agroforestry and commercial forestry on private and community land.

Further, the Bill proposes to designate Kenya Forest Service officers as uniformed and disciplined officers, and to establish the Kenya Forest Academy to enhance training and capacity in the sector.

It also seeks to create the office of the Director of Forest Regulation, which will be responsible for setting standards and regulating entities within the forest sector.

In addition, the Bill requires sustainable management of dryland forests through both traditional and conventional systems, and empowers the Kenya Forest Service to grant easements in public forests for roads, critical installations and public utilities.

The proposed law further enhances penalties for offences related to the import, export and re-export of forest products without the requisite permits, in a bid to curb illegal trade and strengthen conservation efforts.



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF KENYA

(Coram: Koome; CJ & P, Wanjala, Njoki, Lenaola & Ouko, SCJJ)

PETITION NO. E016 & E017 OF 2025 (CONSOLIDATED)

–BETWEEN–

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA ..... 1ST APPELLANT

THE HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL ..... 2ND APPELLANT

–AND–

OKIYA OMTATAH OKOITI ..... 1ST RESPONDENT

THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION ..... 2ND RESPONDENT

KATIBA INSTITUTE ..... 3RD RESPONDENT

*(Being an appeal from the Judgment of the Court of Appeal at Nairobi (**Tuiyott, Muchelule & Odunga, JJ. A**) delivered on 21st February, 2025 in Civil Appeal No. E426 of 2021)*

Representation:

Mr. Awadh Mbarak for the 1st Appellant
(Mbarak Awadh Ahmed, Advocate)

Mr. Emmanuel Bitta for the 2nd Appellant
(Attorney General's Chambers)

Mr. Okiya Omtatah the 1st Respondent
(In person)

Mrs. Sharon Maina for the 2nd Respondent
(Issa & Co. Advocates)

Mr. Malidzo Nyawa and Mr. Ray Odanga for the 3rd Respondent
(Katiba Institute)

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Health Committee recommends lifting of Hospital sanctions, calls for sweeping organ transplant reforms

The Departmental Committee on Health which conducted a public inquiry into allegations of organ harvesting at Mediheal Hospital has recommended that sanctions against the hospital be lifted.

The report tabled in the National Assembly by the Committee Vice Chairperson Hon. Patrick Munene (Chuka/Igambang'ombe), also called for the strengthening of legal and regulatory frameworks governing organ and tissue transplant services.

In April 2025, Health Cabinet Secretary Hon Aden Duale ordered the immediate suspension of all kidney transplant services at the Eldoret-based hospital following allegations of malpractice and ethical violations.

The Committee, chaired by Hon. Dr. James Nyikal (Seme) launched its inquiry in the same month to investigate claims of breaches of professional ethics in kidney transplant procedures at Hospital's Eldoret branch.

"Any sanctions placed on Mediheal Group of Hospitals, including suspension of licences, be lifted except for organ transplant licenses," the report stated in part.

The lifting of the sanctions also includes two other Eldoret based hospitals - St Luke's Orthopedic and Trauma Hospital and Oak Tree Centre for Kidney and Chronic Diseases.

The Committee also recommended sweeping reforms in the country's organ transplant services following the inquiry into alleged malpractice.

To strengthen oversight, the Committee proposed the enactment of a comprehensive Blood, Cell and Organ Transplant Law to establish a National Organ Transplant Authority, a national registry, and a transparent organ allo-



Health Committee Vice Chairperson Hon. Patrick Munene (Chuka Igambang'ombe) leading the meeting in which the Committee adopted the report on the inquiry into claims of breaches of professional ethics in kidney transplant procedures at Mediheal Hospital's Eldoret branch.

The Ministry of Health was urged to fast-track regulations under the Health Act and strengthen regulatory bodies to enhance inspection, enforcement, and accountability.

It has also been tasked with developing a National Organ Transplant Policy aligned with Universal Health Coverage goals and international standards to ensure equitable and safe services.

The Committee further recommended the creation of a joint inspection and enforcement framework among key regulatory agencies to prevent and address malpractice in transplant services.

On infrastructure and staffing, lawmakers called on the National Treasury to fast-track funding for the East Africa Centre of Excellence in Urology and Nephrology at the Kenyatta National Hospital. The facility is expected to boost the training of transplant specialists and improve capacity within five years.

cation system.

creation of a joint inspection and enforcement

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



Many public schools are closing despite having facilities, due to a lack of students. The Education Ministry should identify and map such schools and ensure proper registration and operations. Officials should leave their offices and work in the field to support struggling institutions and prevent cases where students attend unregistered schools, only to face problems during national examinations. Like the Judiciary, which has embraced alternative dispute resolution to improve access to justice, the education sector should adopt flexible approaches to ensure all children get quality education. It is not just enough to always do things in a formal way.

-Hon. Phylis Bartoo (Moiben)



Human-wildlife conflict has become a national concern. all the areas that are near game reserves or national parks are complaining. In my own constituency, farmers struggle because elephants that stray from Rimoi National reserve destroy their crops and kill people. Concerns have been raised, but I think the Kenya Wildlife Service either lacks financial capacity. Every time we raise concerns, they take long. People are even questioning whether it is important to have the wildlife around. It would be better to have a peaceful community by not having the reserve around. I urge KWS to take Kenyans' concerns more seriously."

-Hon. Adams Korir (Keiyo North)



Fishing has significant potential to transform our economy. If we invest heavily in the blue economy, even young unemployed people can get opportunities. But we need a paradigm shift because fishing has a lot of potential. Many times when my mother could not pay school fees, my uncle, a fisherman, supported me. So I am a product of the fishing industry. It supported me and members of my family. Because fishing is open-access, it is different from other businesses. Open access to fishing means one can fish at different beaches. It has come with many problems."

Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona (Suba North)



We must admit that as a nation, we made a mistake by scrapping our technical institutions in favour of the proliferation of universities. I agree that we must expand university education in this country, but we cannot do so to the detriment of technical education or middle-level education. universities should provide higher learning and do research that we need. Certificates and diplomas should be left to middle-level colleges. It wass sad to see us converting our teachers' training colleges into universities. Universities in this country must confine themselves to offering degrees and post-graduate diplomas in their areas of specialization."

-Hon. Justice Kemei (Sigowet/Soin)



"We must establish and offer proper and effective counselling services to our security agents in the country. The officers need support for the mental challenges and personal difficulties they face as they go about their daily lives. I am saying this because our police officers go through many hardships, and others struggle with daily alcohol use. I believe that if police officers are given the opportunity to sit down and be guided on such challenges, the stress and emotional burdens they carry in their hearts and minds will be eased."

- Hon. Amina Mnyazi (Malindi)



What has killed much of the Civil Service is the existence of loopholes that prevent career officers from progressing within their professions where State appointments are made by the President. We must find a way to protect career civil servants, especially those who have served diligently in specific institutions for many years. We must encourage and safeguard them as they dedicate their lives to public service. While appointments are said to be based on merit, in many cases connections still influence outcomes. We must ensure fairness so that qualified officers can compete for positions by simply presenting their credentials without needing personal connections."

-Hon. Njuguna Wanjiku (Kiambaa)



At 60 years, it is quite reasonable for one to be employed. Sometimes, people who are 60 years old and above are also capable. Those are people who have institutional memory of society. They are people we depend on every day. That is why we have elders in the Nyumba Kumi initiative. We can also have an office that is able to accommodate such people who have served in the civil service for up to 60 years as they are able to give service to society again because we still need them. Their basic understanding is often better than someone who has just walked into the position."

-Hon. Jematiah Sergon (Baringo County)



The morale of officers in the lower ranks is causing a lot of problems. If an officer remains a constable for 15 years without hope of promotion, it creates frustration and discouragement in service. That is why you see rising cases of corruption in this country, because officers do not see any hope in the future. I appeal to this House, especially through the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security, to allocate more resources so that officers can be more effective. In many places, police ask citizens to fuel vehicles to respond to emergencies. We need a well-resourced Kenya Police Service with motivated officers."

-Hon. Francis Sigei (Sotik)



"It is high time we made reforms in the Police Service. They carry a heavy workload without proper balance or ratio. In other countries, one or two officers serve about 100 civilians, but here officers are overwhelmed due to the magnitude of their work. Their duties should be balanced and there must be a proper ratio. Just like in schools where we consider the teacher-student ratio, the same should apply in the Police Service. When Junior Secondary School was introduced, there were concerns about imbalance. Teachers need manageable class sizes, and our Police Service should not be any different in ensuring effective service delivery."

-Hon. Dorice Donya (Kisii County)



Conflicts between wildlife and human beings have increased, and compensation is often delayed because the funds allocated to the Kenya Wildlife Service are inadequate. I request that this House increases sufficient funding so that compensation can be paid promptly. We should also have proper planning to ensure that people do not settle too close to wildlife areas. Some communities live near game parks, increasing the risk of conflict. Fences or trenches should be dug to prevent wildlife from crossing into human settlements. This will help reduce these conflicts and promote peaceful coexistence between people and wildlife in affected areas."

-Hon. Rashid Bedzimba (Kisauni)

CLIQUE & CLICKS



Chairperson of the National Assembly Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy Hon. David Pkosing (Centre) flanked by other Committee Members and the local administration pose for a photo on the sidelines of the Committee inspection visit to Hadado Mini-Power plant, Wajir West Constituency



Members of the Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works Committee, Acting Committee Chair. Hon. Rindikiri Mugambi (left), Hon. Joshua Cherorot and Hon. Daniel Manduku posing on the sidelines of the Second Africa Urban Forum (AUF2) held at KICC, Nairobi County

MPs Babu Owino, Nabii Nabwera lead pack in 2026 Starleaders awards

Excellence in legislative performance and grassroots impact took center stage at the 2026 Politrack Africa Starleaders Awards ceremony held at the Serena Hotel.

The gala, which attracted the cream of Kenya's political leadership, saw several Members of Parliament recognized for their stellar service delivery and commitment to their constituents.

Topping the National Assembly rankings for the second year running was Embakasi East MP Hon.Babu Owino who clinched the first-place trophy with an impressive 68.4 percent approval rating, a testament to his vocal presence in the House and consistent involvement in educational and social welfare projects within his constituency.

Lugari MP Hon. Nabii Nabwera and Mavoko MP Hon. Patrick Makau shared the second-place honors, both posting a strong 67.7% score. Their recognition underscores a growing trend of leadership that resonates deeply with the electorate.

The third-place podium featured a three-way tie between Hon. Ndindi Nyoro (Kiharu), Hon.Kuria Kimani, (Molo) and Kabete's Hon. Githua Wamacukuru, all scoring 65.2%.

In the Women Representative category, Nyeri County MP Hon. Rahab Mukami emerged as the top performer, followed closely by Hon. Beatrice Adagala (Vihiga) and Hon. Betty Maina (Murang'a).

STARLEADERS AWARDS FACT BOX

- **Event:** 2026 Politrack Africa Starleaders Awards at Serena Hotel.
- **Focus:** Excellence in legislative performance & grassroots impact.

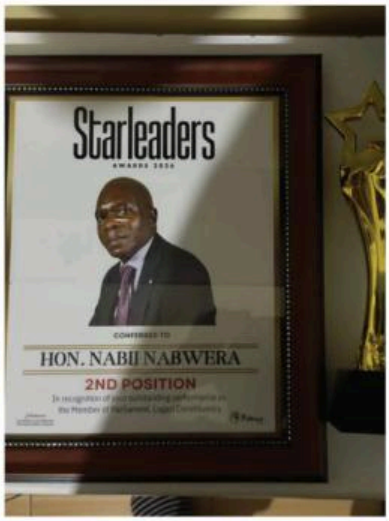
Top MP (National Assembly):

- **1st:** Hon. Babu Owino (Embakasi East) - 68.4% approval (2nd year running).
- **2nd (tie):** Hon. Nabii Nabwera (Lugari) & Hon. Patrick Makau (Mavoko) - 67.7%.
- **3rd (tie):** Hon. Ndindi Nyoro (Kiharu), Hon. Kuria Kimani (Molo), Hon. Githua Wamacukuru (Kabete) - 65.2%.

Women Representative Category:

- **Top:** Hon. Rahab Mukami (Nyeri).
- **Runners-up:** Hon. Beatrice Adagala (Vihiga) & Hon. Betty Maina (Murang'a).











BUNGE MASHINANI ▸ NAIROBI COUNTY

Nairobi MP Esther Passaris marks International Day for street children with luncheon

Nairobi Woman Representative, Hon. Esther Passaris joined hundreds of street families yesterday to observe the International Day for Street Children 2026, emphasizing dignity and inclusion for the city's most vulnerable residents.

The event, organized in collaboration with the Street Families Consortium and grassroots leaders, provided a peaceful space for families to share a luncheon. Passaris expressed her gratitude to partners including SHOFCO the Passaris Foundation, and Co-operative Bank CEO Gideon Muriuki, whose support facilitated the weekend's outreach and feeding program.

Despite the successful gathering, the legislator highlighted the staggering scale of the crisis.

Hon. Passaris noted that "the need remains immense," calling for urgent, structured interventions in rehabilitation, shelter, and reintegration.

"Street families matter," she stated, reaffirming her commitment to restoring dignity to street-connected individuals and advocating for long-term policy solutions to end the cycle of homelessness in the capital.



Nairobi County Woman Representative, Hon. Esther Passaris engaging children and young adults at a luncheon to observe the International Day for Street Children 2026

BUURI CONSTITUENCY



Buuri MP, Hon. Rindikiri Mugambi posing with students and teachers of St. John MCK Kiirua Academy in Parliament

Buuri MP Hosts St. John MCK Kiirua Academy at Parliament

Buuri Member of Parliament, Hon. Rindikiri Mugambi, recently hosted students and teachers from St. John MCK Kiirua Academy at the Parliament of Kenya.

The visit was facilitated through Parliament's Education and Outreach Programme, which offers learners a rare opportunity to tour the legislative precincts and witness the nation's democratic engine in motion. Hon. Mugambi engaged directly with the delegation, providing a firsthand look at how laws are debated and enacted.

"It was a proud and inspiring moment to engage with these bright young minds," the MP remarked, noting that such interactions are vital for nurturing civic awareness.

NANDI COUNTY

Nandi County MP Hon. Cynthia Muge launches Ksh. 19M prize Sporting intiative BOSO Supercup 2026

Nandi County Woman Representative, Hon. Cynthia Muge, has officially launched the BOSO Supercup 2026, a sporting initiative aimed at talent development and social transformation. This year's edition is the most ambitious yet, with a staggering total prize kitty of Ksh. 19 million.

The tournament has expanded its horizon by introducing football alongside the traditional volleyball matches. Football competitors will vie for a share of Ksh. 10.5 million, while volleyball teams compete for Ksh. 8.5 million.

For the first time, a dedicated "Grannies" category features 30 teams of grandpas and grandmas. We had over 1,000 teams registered via a 100% online system.

The sporting tournament themed "A Future Without Addiction," uses sports as an antidote to drug and alcohol abuse.

While the volleyball tournament will conclude within April, the football league is set to be staggered throughout the year, ending in December.

Hon. Muge expressed deep gratitude to sponsors and partners for supporting a vision that builds discipline and health for Nandi's youth.



Nandi County Woman Representative, Hon. Cynthia Muge posing with football players during Boso Supercup Football Edition in Aldai Constituency.

BUNGE Weekly
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Every Monday
E-COPY

IEBC seeks legal reforms and funding as it targets 16 new diaspora voting countries ahead of 2027 elections

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) is planning to add 16 new countries to the list of diaspora voting countries in the lead up to the 2027 elections.

Appearing before the Diaspora Affairs and Migrant Workers Committee, Acting CEO Mr. Moses Sunkuli highlighted the gap between the estimated 1.4 million Kenyans living abroad and actual registration figures. In the 2022 polls, only 10,443 were registered, with turnout standing at 57.76 percent.

The new targeted countries include, Saudi Arabia, Botswana, Oman, Australia, Sweden, Switzerland (Bern), the Netherlands, Ghana, Italy, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nigeria, Ireland, Türkiye, Ethiopia, China (Guangzhou) and Mozambique.

The Commission requires about Kshs 502 million for diaspora activities but has only been allocated Kshs 400 million, leaving critical processes such as mapping and registration stalled. He noted that these activities could begin as early as July if additional funding is secured through ongoing engagements with Parliament.

Limited access points also continue to hinder participation. In 2022, voting took place in just 12 countries largely due to Regulation 34 of the Elections Regulations, which ties diaspora voting to the presence of Kenyan embassies or consulates.

The Commission argues that this requirement imposes unnecessary limits on the right to vote and should be reviewed to allow expansion based on data and need.

Lawmakers raised concerns about access, particularly in countries like Saudi Arabia, where it was noted that Kenyan workers could not register as their Passports were under the custody of their employers.

Sigowet/Soin MP, Hon. Justus Kemei stated, "This Committee should step up and clamp down on the issue of passports being in the possession of employers as this is a diplomatic menace,"

Meanwhile, Kisauni MP, Hon. Rashid Bedzimba sought clarity on whether national IDs could be used for registration in situations where passport holders did not have access to their passports.



Diaspora Affairs and Migrant Workers Committee Vice Chairperson Hon. Simon King'ara (right) shares a light moment with the IEBC Ag. CEO Mr. Moses Sunkuli (left) after the meeting to discuss Diaspora voter registration. With them is the IEBC Director of Voter Education Ms. Joyce Ekuam

This week in history



Jaramogi Oginga Odinga

Resignation of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga as Vice President of Kenya

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga remains a central figure in Kenya's struggle for independence and its early post-colonial politics. Serving as Kenya's first Vice President from 1964 to 1966 under Jomo Kenyatta, he helped shape the governance of the newly independent state while championing African socialism and economic equity.

On April 14, 1966, Odinga resigned from office, a decisive moment rooted in deep ideological and political differences with Kenyatta. While Odinga advocated for state-led development, land redistribution and social justice, Kenyatta's administration increasingly pursued market-oriented policies and closer ties with Western interests. These competing visions of Kenya's post-independence path made continued cooperation untenable.

Following his resignation, Odinga formed the Kenya People's Union (KPU), marking the country's first major opposition movement after independence. The move intensified political rivalry and exposed growing divisions within the ruling Kenya African National Union (KANU).

Odinga's stance was captured in his enduring phrase, "Not yet Uhuru," reflecting his belief that political independence had not translated into economic and social liberation. His resignation signalled the onset of a more polarised political era.

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This Week in History segment compiled by the Parliamentary Research Service


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