House Committee told of KNH plans to end patient detentions over unpaid bills On PG 4 ▸

BUNGE Weekly

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

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Monday,April 27th, 2026 to Monday, May 4th, 2026



The Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning, Hon. Kuria Kimani during the stakeholder engagement.

National Treasury backs establishment of Sovereign Wealth Fund , tells MPs the funds holds promise for tomorrow

The National Treasury has posited the proposed Sovereign Wealth Fund as the definitive pathway to fulfilling Kenya's constitutional mandate for inter-generational equity.

Appearing before the Finance Committee last week on Tuesday, Mr. Lawrence Kibet, the Director General for Public Investments Portfolio Management who represented the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury, underscored the Fund's pivotal role in financing strategic infrastructure.

"Hon. Chairman, this Strategic infrastructure investment component will provide funding for strategic infrastructure investment priorities (agriculture, transport, housing, energy, water, education and health) that are aligned to the national development plan to foster a stronger and more inclusive growth and development," Mr. Kibet noted.

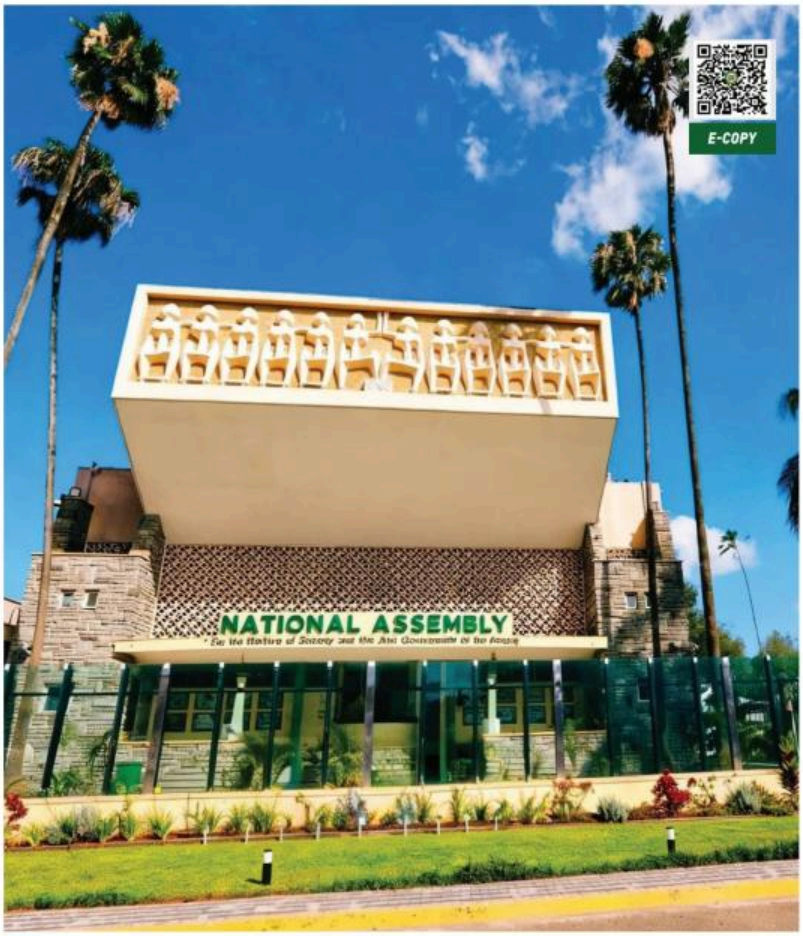
He further informed the Committee that these priorities could leverage private sector financing for commercially viable projects.

Regarding capital sources, he explained that sources of funds would include transfers received from the Holding Account, and 50 per cent of the investment income earned on the Strategic Infrastructure Investment component.

Despite the National Treasury's optimism, Members led by Chairperson Hon. Kuria Kimani questioned whether the new entity would overlap

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MPs pass Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill in a move set to unlock oil investment, tighten oversight



The National Assembly has passed the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2026 with key amendments, paving the way for accelerated investment in the petroleum sector while introducing stricter regulatory oversight for operators within Special Economic Zones (SEZs). STORY ON PAGE 2

PLENARY



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The Bill, which sailed through with amendments at the Committee Stage, is expected to play a central role in facilitating commercial oil production in Turkana by aligning the SEZ framework with the operational realities of upstream and midstream petroleum activities.

A major amendment was effected is Clause 2, where the House endorsed a provision to introduce precise legal definitions for petroleum activities. The revised clause defines 'upstream petroleum operations' to include exploration, development, production and transportation of crude oil up to the delivery point, while 'midstream petroleum operations' now covers transportation, storage, refining and natural gas processing.

The changes align the SEZ framework with the Petroleum Act, providing legal clarity for investors entering Kenya's nascent oil industry.

The House also introduced a new Clause 3A, amending Section 11 of the principal law to strengthen enforcement powers of the SEZ Authority. The amendment allows the Authority to suspend or cancel licences of developers, operators or enterprises that violate not only the SEZ law but also other applicable statutes, including the East African Community Customs Management framework.

Lawmakers said the provision enhances compliance and safeguards the integrity of SEZ operations.

MPs also entrenched a minimum 10-year licence period for SEZ operators, a move aimed at boosting investor confidence in capital-intensive sectors such as oil and gas.

Beyond oil, the House noted the Bill's wider economic impact, noting it will support the establishment of diverse industrial parks, including manufacturing, agro-processing, petroleum, mineral and resource-based production zones. This is expected to catalyse job creation, value addition and regional development.

Hon. Ichung'wah pointed out the broader national benefit, stating, "These legislative changes will transform previously marginalised regions into new frontiers of economic growth."

The Bill further opens SEZ participation to foreign investors by allowing international companies to operate through registered branches, removing the requirement for local incorporation. Lawmakers said this will boost foreign direct investment inflows

Kenya, Ghana share Parliamentary best practices as National Assembly Committees host foreign delegation



From left, Hon. Jayne Kihara (Naivasha), Hon. Nikyema Billa Alamzy (Chiana-Paga MP - Ghana) - Ghana), Hon. Teresia Mwangi (nominated), Hon. Isaac Boamah Nyarko (Effia MP - Ghana), Hon. Karani Stephen Wachira (Laikipia West), Hon. Kamande Mwafrika (Roysambu), Hon. Abdul Rauf Tubazu (Ayawaso Central MP - Ghana), Hon. Godwin Dorgbadzi Dorani (Adansi Asokwa MP - Ghana) and Hon. Suzanne Ndunge (Makueni) pose for a photo after a meeting at Parliament Buildings.

Lawmakers from the National Assembly shared knowledge and experiences on best parliamentary practices with Members of Parliament from Ghana's House Committee with an aim of strengthening legislative collaboration between the two parliaments.

In a Joint meeting co-chaired by the Chairpersons for the Committees on Broadcasting and Library and that of Members Service and Facilities, Hon. Daniel Nanok and Hon. (Dr.) Karani Stephen Wachira respectively, the MPs shared their mandates, experiences and challenges encountered in discharging their oversight, legislative and representation duties in constituents.

The Ghanaian delegation led by Hon. Isaac Boamah Nyarko said the visit is aimed at benchmarking and learning from Kenya's parliamentary systems. He noted that their House Committee's mandate is similar to Kenya's Committee on Members Service And Facilities.

"We are here to learn from Kenya, share ideas on what we have done, and further understand what's happening in your jurisdiction," he said.

The MPs from Ghana expressed interest in understanding how the National Assembly has established and run the Constituency offices, especially the NG-CDF. Of interest to them too was the Parliamentary Pension Scheme, the framework for Post Retirement Medical Scheme, as well as MPs catering services, security and broadcasting services.

Responding to the concerns, Hon. Daniel Nanok explained that the services given to the Kenyan MPs are run and administered by the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC), a Constitutional body mandated to oversee key parliamentary functions, including security, catering, library, and broadcasting services.

Hon. Nanok further clarified that Kenyan MPs do not manage the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF), emphasizing that their role is strictly on oversight.

"The NG-CDF funds are controlled by the Public Finance Management laws and run by the NG-CDF Board. Constituencies propose projects to the Board for approval and implementation," Hon. Nanok said.

Elaborating on Parliament of Kenya's Pension Scheme and Post Retirement Medical Scheme, Hon. Karani Stephen Wachira stated that the former is applicable to MPs who serve a minimum of two terms and that the latter began during the 13th Parliament, whereby Members of Parliament and staff contribute to it, to ensure that medical bills after retirement are taken care of.

Speaking to the resolution of matters affecting MPs, Hon. Wachira attributed the promptness and effectiveness to the Clerk of the National Assembly and the Director General in responding to Members' needs and concerns.

"The Clerk of the National Assembly and the Director General work jointly on resolving matters affecting the MPs. Once reported, the matters are usually dealt with promptly," Hon. Wachira said.

Hon. Wachira dispelled the notion that the meals MPs take at the Members' cafeteria is free.

"MPs pay for their lunch in Parliament. We usually sign vouchers and money is deducted from our payslips," Hon. Wachira added.

In his concluding remarks, the head of the Ghana delegation appreciated the in-depth engagement received from their Kenyan counterparts and committed to ensuring that lessons from this visit are translated into action back at home.

"As partners of development and countries with longstanding relations, this is a good opportunity to keep building these symbiotic relationships," He said. "We have learned a lot and will endeavor to ensure that we put to use our key take away: prompt response to MPs issues", he added."

Isaac Boahian Nyarko said the visit is aimed at Responding to the concerns, Hon. Daniel

MPs seek clarity and stronger framework on Women's Economic Empowerment Policy



A section of both Female and Male MPs pose for a photo with officials from the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action led by the Principal Secretary, Ms. Anne Wang'ombe. They were joined by IPF staff, KEWOPA and KYPA secretariat during the meeting held on 17th April, 2026

Members of the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) alongside their male counterparts have urged the Ministry of Gender & Affirmative Action to ensure that the National Policy on Women Economic Empowerment (NPWEE) effectively address the systemic barriers facing women.

The Policy aims to achieve gender equality, reduce poverty and foster inclusive economic growth to enable women's entrepreneurship and participation in the economy.

Speaking during the session organized by UN Women, KEWOPA, Institute for Public Finance (IPF) and the State Department for Gender & Affirmative Action, the Chairperson for Caucus 47, Hon. Jane Kagiri highlighted the importance of engaging MPs, noting that the platform enables lawmakers to scrutinize the policy constructively.

"This dialogue gives us an opportunity to interrogate the policy value within Kenya's broader Women's Economic Empowerment ecosystem. As legislators, we particularly want to understand: how does this policy complement existing frameworks? Where does it deepen impact, and where might there be risks of duplication especially with established mechanisms such as NGAAF and other ongoing WEE initiatives?" Hon. Kagiri posed.

The MPs tasked the Principal Secretary (PS) for the State Department of Gender and Affirmative Action, Ms. Anne Wang'ombe to expound on what the policy speaks to and what it seeks to achieve.

Hon. Prof. Phyllis Bartoo (Moiben) reiterated that the policy must respond to the needs of women, while Hon. Esther Passaris (Nairobi) insisted that NPWEE should focus on interventions that empower households, noting that women have multiplier effect which then break cycles of poverty.

In her response, PS Anne Wang'ombe dismissed fears that the policy seeks to replace the National Government Affirmation Action Fund (NGAAF).

"I can't discredit the works being done by NGAAF. Alone, it can't fix the system barriers that are there. It is simply the fuel that women MPs pour into the engine," PS Wong'ombe said.

She further observed that the policy will streamline fragmented funding mechanisms across the Ministries, State Departments and Agencies and expand women's participation in leadership and on the decision table.

However, the PS urged the MPs to consider enhancing the budget for the State Department to help in the rollout and implementation of the policy.

In her remarks, Hon. Alice Ng'ang'a called for Parliamentary involvement in the report to ensure that all concerns raised by MPs are captured in the policy.

(Continued) from Page 1

with existing structures and operations of the National Infrastructure Fund which was established recently.

"Aren't we duplicating roles here with the just established National Infrastructure Fund which is equally intended to fund strategic infrastructure investments across the country?" Hon. Kimani asked.

Butula lawmaker Hon. Joseph Oyula weighed in, seeking clarity on how the two funds would be coordinated to avoid conflict.

Mr. Kibet clarified that while the National Infrastructure Fund targets commercially viable projects, the Sovereign Wealth Fund is designed to support critical infrastructure which is strategic to the nation, even if it lacks immediate commercial viability.

The Director General emphasized that the Fund would provide a vital safety net for future generations as natural resources diminish.

"Hon. Members, this Fund seeks to generate an alternative stream of income to support expenditure on capital projects because of revenue downturn caused by depletion of minerals and petroleum while distributing wealth across generations," he stated.

Turning to the operations of the proposed Fund, Mr. Kibet explained that the National Treasury intends for the Fund to be managed by a competitively recruited Board and professional fund managers to shield it from speculative risks.

However, Committee Members citing past management failures rooted for more punitive measures . Hon. Kimani proposed enhancing penalties for board members to deter misappropriation or poor investment decisions.

Other Committee Members questioned the Fund's long-term viability.

"What is the realistic outlook of this Fund and how will the Fund be sustainable without a proper framework to generate the Funding?" asked Hon. Dr. Shadrack Mwiti.

Turkana South MP Hon. (Dr.) John Ariko also raised concerns regarding the lack of a clear commencement timeline.

In response, Mr. Kibet undertook to provide detailed projections and utilization timelines to the Committee within one week.

Stakeholder engagements on the Bill were completed last week and the Committee is set to table its report this week for consideration.

COMMITTEES' ROUND-UP

Bomas of Kenya not ready for 2026 Africa–France Summit, MPs told



A section of Members of the Tourism and Wildlife Committee led by Vice-Chairperson Hon. Bedzimba Rashid conducting an inspection tour of the Bomas of Kenya that is undergoing a major facelift.

The Bomas of Kenya will not be ready to host the 2026 Africa–France Partnerships for Innovation and Growth Summit, a parliamentary Committee has been told. The two-day summit is scheduled for May 11 and 12.

Members of the National Assembly Committee on Tourism and Wildlife were informed during the inspection tour of the facility that is currently undergoing renovation that the venue will not be completed in time for the summit.

Tourism Principal Secretary John Ololtuaa told the Committee that is led by Vice-Chairperson Hon. Rashid Bedzimba (Kisauni MP) that the ongoing facelift will not meet the event deadline.

"Our inspection has established that the works will not be completed within the stipulated timeframe," said Hon. Bedzimba.

Despite the delay, the Committee expressed satisfaction with the progress and quality of the reconstruction works. "The Committee is satisfied that there is value for money in the project which is aimed at transforming Bomas into a world-class facility," Rashid said. Lawmakers reaffirmed their support for the government's plan to upgrade the venue into the Bomas International Convention Centre (BICC)

The Committee pledged continued oversight to ensure prudent use of public funds. Hon. Khamis Chome (Voi) said the Africa–France summit had been relocated due to the unavailability of the BICC as it is still under construction. Meanwhile, Hon Talib Ababakar (Nominated) noted that the project is expected to generate employment opportunities for youth once completed. Ololtuaa described the redevelopment as a landmark initiative that will significantly boost Kenya's tourism and conference hosting capacity.

House Committee told of KNH plans to end patient detentions over unpaid bills



Cohesion and Equal Opportunities Committee Vice-Chairperson Hon. Duncan Mathenge chairing a meeting that grilled KNH CEO Dr. Richard Lesiyampe on ethnic balance



(From left) Members of the Cohesion and Equal Opportunities Committee Hon Yussuf Hassan, Hon. Peter Orero and Hon. Dick Maungu peruse through documents during a meeting with KNH CEO Dr. Richard Lesiyampe last Thursday.

The National Assembly Committee on Cohesion and Equal Opportunities has been told that Kenyatta National Hospital is implementing measures to ensure that no patients or bodies are detained over unpaid bills.

Acting CEO Richard Lesiyampe informed the Committee that the hospital has established a Credit Waiver Committee to facilitate the clearance of patients and bodies from financially disadvantaged families. He added that a formal policy is being developed to institutionalize the process.

Dr Lesiyampe further told the Committee that was led by Vice-Chairperson Duncan Mathenge (Nyeri Town) that no patient is currently being held at the facility due to non-payment.

He was responding to concerns raised by Hon. Yussuf Hassan (Kamukunji) and Hon. Peter Orero (Kibra), who said they frequently intervene in cases involving detained patients and bodies.

The acting CEO also told the Committee that the hospital is grappling with a growing patient load and faces a critical shortage of medical staff.

However, the Committee expressed concern over the hospital's failure to comply with legal requirements on ethnic balance in staffing.

Hon. Dick Maungu (Luanda) noted that out of the 5,289 staff, one community comprises 27 per cent. He observed that the situation was unacceptable for an institution that serves the entire nation.

Hon. Mathenge and Hon. Martin Owino (Ndhiwa) also criticized the hospital for failing to meet statutory requirements on the employment of persons living with disabilities.

"You have breached the law by only employing two per cent of persons living with disabilities against the required minimum of five per cent," said Hon. Mathenge.

Dr Lesiyampe said the issue of ethnic imbalance dates back 16 years and said the hospital's management is working to address it in upcoming recruitment exercises.

held at the facility due to non-payment.

Public Accounts Committee queries sustainability of Free Education Programme

The Public Accounts Committee, chaired by Hon. Tindi Mwale (Butere), has raised concerns over the sustainability of the free education programme.

The issue emerged during the Committee's review of a Special Audit Report on Capitation and Infrastructure Grants in schools.

During the session attended by Basic Education Principal Secretary Prof. Julius Bitok, Members questioned the Ministry over persistent capitation shortfalls and delays.

Members argued that the government should be candid with the public and acknowledge that education is not fully free. They suggested that the current system be described as subsidised, with parents required to top up fees.

Prof. Bitok told the Committee that the current capitation stands at Ksh22,224 per student for Free Day Secondary School and Ksh15,043 for Free Day Junior Secondary School. He added that allocations are Ksh1,420 per learner in primary schools and Ksh57,974 for Special Needs Education.

However, Members disputed the figures, stating that secondary school students receive slightly over Ksh12,000, not the Ksh22,224 indicated.

The Committee noted that more than one million learners missed capitation funds in 2024, leading to financial strain in schools, with some institutions forced to close early due to funding gaps.

Members urged the Ministry to clearly state whether it can sustain free education under the current funding levels and called on national leadership to be transparent with parents.

In response, Prof. Bitok maintained that free education will continue, attributing the challenges to inadequate budgetary allocations approved by Parliament.

Committee Chairperson Hon. Mwale criticized national budget priorities, saying education funding should be treated with urgency similar to national security and other key sectors.

"We cannot allocate huge amounts of money to security, roads and housing and fail to adequately fund education for our children," he said.



Public Accounts Committee Chairperson Hon. Tindi Mwale listens as Hon.Nabii Nabwera (Lugari) makes a point, during a consultative engagement with Basic Education PS Prof Julius Bitok

He added that the House Team will work with relevant parliamentary committees to ensure increased funding for the Basic Education sector, noting that the programme remains critical for learners from disadvantaged backgrounds.

House demands accountability as building collapses expose regulatory failure



Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works Committee Acting Chairperson, Hon. Rindikiri Mugambi speaking during the Second Africa Urban Forum (AUF2) held at KICC,

Members of the National Assembly have raised alarm over the increasing collapse of buildings across the country, piling pressure on the government to enforce construction standards and protect lives.

Responding to a Statement request by Hon. Wanami Wamboka, the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Housing, Public Works and Urban Planning, Hon. Mugambi Rindikiri, tabled a detailed report from the State Department of Public Works, outlining systemic failures behind the incidents.

"The collapse of buildings, especially high-rise structures, is mostly attributable to non-compliance with building standards and regulations," Hon. Mugambi told the House. He cited widespread flouting of zoning rules, noting that "in some cases, a one-storey building is approved, but unscrupulous developers end up building three or four floors on top."

The report further flagged gaps in the approval process involving multiple agencies, poor workmanship, use of substandard materials, and weak professional oversight. Hon. Mugambi admitted that even contractors and homeowners often fail to test materials, contributing to structural failures.

Statistics presented to the House painted a worrying picture. At least 100 buildings collapsed between 1996 and 2006, with recent cases concentrated in Nairobi and Kiambu counties. Compliance with construction standards remains uneven, with Nairobi at 57.8 per cent and the Coast region trailing at just 20 per cent.

Lawamkers said the findings merely restated known problems without offering firm deterrents. Hon. Wamboka argued the report was insufficient, saying that "without a proper inquiry, this will be no different from any other document of this House." He urged Parliament to push for a commission of inquiry akin to the United Kingdom's Grenfell Tower probe, saying Kenya

The Speaker, Hon. Moses Wetang'ula challenged the Committee to demonstrate concrete enforcement. "How many people have been prosecuted? How many convicted as a deterrent?" he posed, recalling past tragedies where substandard materials led to loss of life.

The Speaker directed the Committee to present a comprehensive action plan within two months.

Nairobi County on 8th April 2026

House concludes debate on tea pricing Inquiry



The Chairperson of the Agriculture and Livestock Committee during engagements with the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) at Parliament buildings on November 26 2025



Members of the Agriculture and Livestock Committee during a visit to the Mombasa Tea Auction Centre in November 2025, where they met the East African Tea Traders Association (EATTA) as part of their inquiry into tea pricing on November 24, 2025.

The National Assembly has concluded debate on a motion on the report by the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock on tea pricing in Kenya, placing renewed focus on disparities in farmer earnings across regions.

The inquiry was triggered by concerns from Mps representing the West of the Rift Valley, who questioned why farmers in their region receive lower bonuses compared to their counterparts in the East. The matter, raised in the House by Hon. Brighton Yegon (Konoin), had already sparked unrest among farmers, including protests and the uprooting of tea bushes.

Following the debate, Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula directed the Committee to undertake a comprehensive inquiry. Additional Members were co-opted to strengthen the process and allow for more focused scrutiny.

The Committee's findings pointed to significant differences in performance between the two regions. Tea from the East of the Rift Valley consistently fetches higher prices at the Mombasa Tea Auction, largely due to better quality. In contrast, tea from the West is affected by factors such as hawking, mixed cultivars and the presence of multiple independent processors handling lower-grade leaf.

In its report, the Committee proposed wide-ranging reforms, including stricter regulatory oversight, audits of factory licensing and investments, and stronger enforcement of quality standards. It also called for diversification of export markets, promotion of direct tea sales and increased funding for research.

Moving the motion, Committee Chairperson Hon. (Dr.) John Mutunga described the pricing disparities as a critical issue affecting farmers, but maintained that the challenge lies in quality and operational inefficiencies rather than the broader tea management framework.

"Matters of tea should be discussed as matters of the heart. The disparities we are seeing must be addressed with the seriousness they deserve," he said.

The report drew mixed reactions from Members, with some supporting its findings while others questioned its conclusions, particularly on the argument of quality of their tea.

Defence Committee Inspects KDF Affordable Housing Project at Lang'ata Barracks

The National Assembly's Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations Committee has conducted an oversight visit to the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) Affordable Housing Project at Lang'ata Barracks, reaffirming Parliament's commitment to improving the welfare of military personnel.

The Committee, chaired by Belgut MP Hon. Nelson Koech, toured the project on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, where it assessed progress and received a detailed briefing from military officials.

The housing initiative, which is being implemented under the KDF Affordable Housing Programme, commenced in January 2026 and targets the construction of 10,095 housing units across five key military installations including Embakasi, Kahawa, Lang'ata, Moi Airbase and Roysambu.

Designed to address the diverse needs of service members, the project features a mix of housing typologies, including studio units, as well as one-, two- and three-bedroom houses. All units are expected to be fitted with modern amenities to improve living standards for officers and their families.



Defence Committee Chairperson Hon. Nelson Koech (seated), signs the Visitors book at Langata Barracks during the site visit on Tuesday last week. Accompanying him are Committee Members and senior Military officials

During the inspection, officers led by Brigadier Lenamunai updated the Committee on the status of the Lang'ata development. The project, estimated to cost Sh2.6 billion, is currently at 12 per cent completion and is projected for completion by January 2028.

The Committee was also informed that the Ministry of Defence is working closely with the State Department for Housing to scale up similar housing projects in other parts of the country, in line with the government's broader affordable housing agenda.

However, legislators raised concerns over the programme's financing structure, seeking clarity on its sustainability and accountability. In response, military officials explained that the project is being implemented through a developer-led financing model, where private developers fund construction upfront and are repaid upon completion.

They clarified that the National Housing Fund is not being utilised during the construction phase.

Speaking after the visit, Hon. Koech underscored the importance of providing decent and dignified housing for members of the armed forcesnoting that adequate living conditions are critical to morale and operational effectiveness.

"As a Committee, we remain fully committed to supporting initiatives that enhance the welfare of our military personnel. Ensuring they live in good conditions is not just a matter of comfort, but a key component of national security," he said.

Budget Committee reviews draft National Police Service (Amendment) Bill, 2025 to expedite renewal of Good Conduct Certificates

Members of Parliament have reviewed a legislative proposal to streamline the renewal of Certificates of Good Conduct renewal.

The legislative proposal, sponsored by Hon. John Makali, seeks to amend the National Police Service Act to eliminate the requirement for repeat fingerprint submission when renewing police clearance certificates, a move lawmakers said would ease access to critical services for Kenyans.

Appearing before the Committee, Hon. Makali said the Bill is anchored on modernising systems and reducing inefficiencies. "The primary objective is to ensure that once an applicant's biometrics are captured, subsequent applications can be processed online without the need for physical appearance," he said.

He noted that the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) currently processes about one million certificates annually, placing pressure on existing infrastructure and leading to delays.

The draft Bill requires the DCI to establish and maintain a secure biometric database, a move meant to expedite processing timelines and decongest service points such as Huduma Centres and DCI offices.

Committee Vice Chairperson, Hon. Robert Pukose welcomed the proposal, seeking clarity on its impact on service delivery. "Does this stop the issuance of certificates?" he posed.

In response, Hon. Makali assured the Committee that services would not be disrupted. "Certificates will still be issued, but the process will be fast-tracked. It will particularly benefit Kenyans abroad who currently have to travel back home just to submit fingerprints and our youth having to physically visit centres to renew certificates of good conduct," he said.

Members noted the public benefits, including reduced travel costs and improved efficiency. "This is a progressive proposal that will ease the burden on applicants and enhance convenience," said Hon. Florence Jematia.

The Committee also considered the financial implications of the Bill, noting that the government is already implementing an upgrade of the Automated Palm and Fingerprint Identification System (APFIS) to the Multi-Biometric Identification System (MBIS).

Hon. Christopher Aseka sought clarification on the existence of the database, to which the sponsor responded that while the system upgrade is ongoing, the law is needed to provide legal backing. "This Bill provides the legal anchorage to ensure that biometric data is securely stored and reused within the law," said Hon. Makali.

Hon. Pukose stated that Committee Members would scrutinise the financial projections alongside the policy benefits. "We will look at the figures and consider the proposal as presented and submit a report to the House."



Budget and Appropriations Committee Vice Chair, Hon. Robert Pukose speaking during a meeting

Delegated Legislation Committee engages with the ministry over proposed music tariffs

Members of the National Assembly Committee on Delegated Legislation have questioned the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports over proposed music and audio-visual tariffs for 2026–2028, warning that the new fees could trigger legal challenges and burden ordinary Kenyans.

The Committee, chaired by Ainabkoi MP Hon. Samuel Chepkonga, put the Ministry on the spot during a session that also hosted a visiting delegation from Tanzania. At the centre of the scrutiny was whether the proposed tariffs comply with a 2025 High Court ruling that nullified previous fees due to inadequate public participation.

Cabinet Secretary Hon. Salim Mvurya, accompanied by Principal Secretary Fikirini Jacobs, defended the regulations as key to empowering artists and advancing the government's bottom-up economic agenda. "These tariffs are not income for the government. This is income for talented musicians," CS Mvurya told MPs.

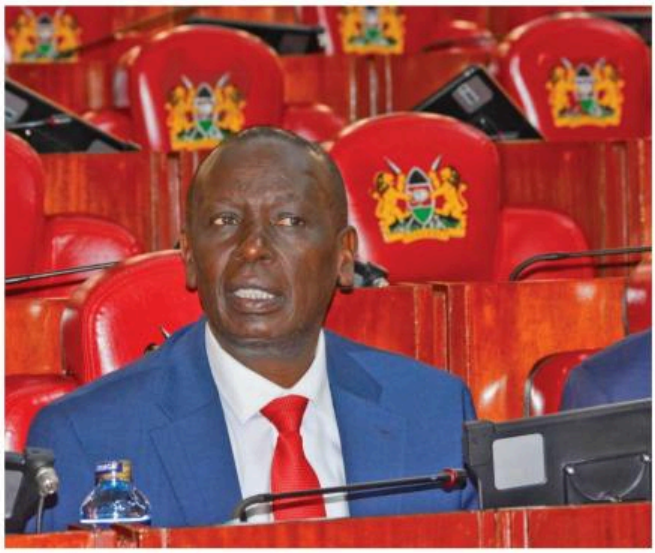
Addressing concerns over a proposed KSh 100,000 annual fee for legislators, the CS argued the cost was justified. "If we have to compensate musicians per activity, a Kshs 100,000 annual fee will be much cheaper," he said.

However, lawmakers raised multiple red flags. Hon. Chepkonga pointed to a major legal omission, noting that the draft regulations lack enforcement provisions. "You cannot have regulations which have no penalties," he cautioned, adding that the Ministry must demonstrate meaningful and effective public participation to avoid another court setback.

Garissa Town MP Hon. Dekoh Barrow questioned the inclusion of medical facilities among those to be charged. "I don't know which hospitals play music " You are going to throw us under the bus," he said. He also sought clarity on how royalties would be distributed to foreign artists whose works are played locally, prompting the CS to state that consultations with international bodies are ongoing.

Nyando MP Hon. Jared Okello cast doubt on the credibility of the public participation exercise, which reportedly involved only 62 participants. "I do not know whether 62 would be representative enough when you have to look at the face of Kenya," he said. Hon. Okello further warned that a proposed Kshs 500,000 campaign fee for presidential candidates could undermine democratic competition. "Political competition should not be cost-prohibitive," he added.

The Committee directed the Ministry to provide evidence of comprehensive stakeholder consultations, including with hospitals and small enterprises, and to revise the draft regulations before resubmission.



Delegated Legislation Committee Hon. Samuel Chepkonga

those to be charged. "I don't know which hospitals

Health Committee backs plan to support haemophilia patients

The Departmental Committee on Health has pledged to engage the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders to improve the management of haemophilia and other bleeding disorders in the country.

Committee Vice Chairperson, Hon. Patrick Munene (Chuka Igambang'ombe), announced the move during a meeting with officials from the Haemophilia Association of Kenya, which has petitioned Parliament for urgent policy and health system reforms.

"We will put the Ministry of Health to task and offer the necessary support to address the challenges faced by individuals living with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders," said Hon. Munene.

Earlier, the Association's Treasurer, Mr. James Kago, presented the petition to the Committee and explained the difficulties faced by patients.

Mr. Kago, who is also living with the condition, said both children and adults experience frequent and sometimes life-threatening bleeding episodes.

He noted that the condition reduces quality of life and can lead to joint damage, chronic pain, missed school or work, and shorter life expectancy.

Kago also cited Article 43(1)(a) of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to the highest standard of health, including access to healthcare services.

He explained that treatment for haemophilia, especially preventive care for children known as prophylaxis, is highly specialised and costly. This has placed a heavy burden on families and caregivers, making it difficult to access consistent care.

According to the Association, haemophilia affects about one in every 10,000 people. In Kenya, an estimated 4,500 people are living with the condition, but only about 1,265 have been formally diagnosed.

The petition also raises concerns about limited data on haemophilia and calls for the establishment of a national patient registry to improve planning and service delivery.

Additionally, the Association expressed concern over the shortage of clotting factor concentrates used in treatment. Current donations meet only about 30 percent of the required supply, forcing some patients to rely on alternative treatments that may carry additional risks.



Health Committee Vice Chairperson Hon. Patrick Munene (Chuka Igambang'ombe) during a meeting with members of the Haemophilia Association of Kenya.

The group warned that the donation programme faces a 70 percent shortfall and could end within two years, raising fears of a major treatment crisis, particularly for children who depend on preventive therapy.

MPs consider draft Bill to track budget spending at constituency level



Hon. Caroli Omondi speaking during a meeting of the Budget and Appropriations Committee

The National Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committee has reviewed a legislative proposal aimed at enhancing transparency and equity in the allocation of public resources, in a move that could fundamentally reshape how Kenyans track government spending at the grassroots.

Chaired by Vice Chairperson Hon. Robert Pukose, the Committee considered the Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025 sponsored by Hon. Caroli Omondi, which seeks to introduce mandatory geographical reporting of national expenditure down to the constituency level.

The proposed law requires that budget estimates include a clear, sector-based summary of funds allocated to each of the country's 290 constituencies—moving away from the current system that largely reports spending by sectors and programmes without pinpointing where the money is actually spent.

Committee Members heard that the reform is anchored in Article 201 of the Constitution, which emphasises equity, transparency and accountability in public finance.

"This proposal gives practical effect to the principles of fairness and openness in budgeting. Members of Parliament and wananchi will now be able to see exactly what their regions receive," said Hon Caroli Omondi.

Currently, Kenya's budget is prepared using a standard chart of accounts, which classifies expenditure by votes, programmes and sub-programmes. However, experts told the Committee that this structure makes it difficult to determine how resources are distributed geographically, leaving gaps in oversight and public accountability.

The Bill proposes amendments to key provisions of the PFM Act to compel the National Treasury, the Parliamentary Budget Office, and the Budget Committee to ensure that budget estimates include detailed expenditure summaries for each sub-county administrative unit representing constituencies.

To support the reforms, the government will be required to upgrade the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) to incorporate geographical coding and reporting. Initial estimates place the cost of implementation at Kshs 850 million in the first year, largely driven by system upgrades and training of over 2,500 officers across Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

However, legislators signalled the possibility of reducing costs by aligning reporting to the 290 constituencies instead of the 674 sub-counties initially proposed.

Noting the financial implications, Committee Members argued that the long-term benefits outweigh the costs. These include improved transparency, stronger parliamentary oversight, and more equitable distribution of resources across regions.

According to the Parliamentary Budget Office, countries such as South Africa, Rwanda and Mexico have successfully implemented similar systems, enabling real-time tracking of public expenditure and strengthening accountability.

If passed, the law is expected to empower citizens to monitor development projects in their localities, enhance public participation, and address historical imbalances in resource allocation.

The Committee has now requested revised financial estimates aligned to constituency-based reporting, with a final decision on the Bill expected after further review.

CLIQUE & CLICKS



Cohesion and Equal Opportunities Committee Chairperson, Hon. Yussuf Haji poses for a picture with students who attended a Committee meeting to learn its operations

Jomvu MP, Hon. Twalib Badi recognized for excellence in education sector

Hon. Twalib Badi, has been named the Best Performing MP in the Education Sector (2026) in the GovTrack Africa Opinion Poll, marking a significant milestone in his leadership record.

Speaking after receiving the recognition, Badi attributed the achievement to a collective effort, emphasizing his continued commitment to transforming lives across Jomvu. He noted that the award reflects not only his vision but also the support and resilience of the community he serves.

The recognition comes shortly after the MP spearheaded a major bursary initiative worth Kshs 60 million aimed at supporting bright and needy students. The program saw the disbursement of KShs 35 million to secondary schools and KShs 25 million to tertiary institutions, including colleges and universities.

According to Hon. Badi, the funds are intended to ease the financial burden on families while ensuring that no deserving student is left behind due to lack of school fees. He described the initiative as a strategic investment in the future of Jomvu's youth.

"This is about creating opportunities and empowering our young people through education," he said. "Every child deserves a chance to succeed, regardless of their background."



Jomvu MP, Hon. Twalib Badi issues bursary cheques to students



A snapshot of the top ten MPs in the education sector by GovTrack Africa Opinion poll

BUNGE MASHINANI ▸ RUNYENJES CONSTITUENCY

Electricity project to light up four villages in Runyenjes

Households in four villages in Runyenjes Constituency are set to benefit from a new electricity supply programme launched by area MP, Hon. Muchangi Karemba.

"The installation of the Kirenyi electricity transformer will bring an end to the long period without power in Kirenyi, Ivumbu, Ngurori and Maranga villages. It will open the door to reliable electricity, better livelihoods, improved security and more economic opportunities," said Hon. Karemba.

Residents of the four villages welcomed the news with great joy and expressed their gratitude to the MP.



KPLC technicians install electricity transformers for the supply of electricity in three villages to benefit locals

KWANZA CONSTITUENCY







New classroom block ready for students at Francis Kolongolo Girls Secondary School officially opened by Speaker Moses Wetang'ula (right)

New Classroom Block Ready for Students at Francis Kolongolo Girls Secondary School

Students of Francis Kolongolo Girls Secondary School in Kwanza Constituency will receive a pleasant surprise as they return for the second term.

A modern classroom block, funded by the Kwanza NG-CDF under the patronage of area MP Hon. Ferdinand Wanyonyi, is now ready for use. The facility will be occupied by students once they resume their studies after the holiday break.

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Rt Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula, officially opened the new block on behalf of the MP, who is currently recovering in a hospital in India.

"I have come here to officially open the new block and also inform the people of Kwanza that Hon. Wanyonyi's health has improved, and he will soon return home to resume his duties," said Wetang'ula.

EMBU COUNTY

Hon. Njoki leads initiative on relief food distribution in Embu County

Embu County MP, Hon. Njoki Njeru, provided much-needed support to residents facing hunger by stepping up food relief distribution.

She distributed food supplies to over 1,000 vulnerable households in Kevote, Muchagorí, Kigumo, and Ndenderu/Kogarí in Runyenjes and Mbeere North.

"This initiative continues to support the elderly, widows, persons living with disabilities, and other at-risk groups amid rising living costs," she said.



Embu County MP Hon. Njoki Njeru distributing relief food to wananchi faced with hunger due to rising cost of living

EMBAKASI EAST CONSTITUENCY



Hon. Babu Owino presiding over the disbursement of bursaries to bright and

Hon Babu disburses bursaries to support needy students

Embakasi East MP Hon. Babu Owino has given bursaries to hundreds of bright and needy students ahead of the new school term.

While overseeing the cheque distribution in Utawala Ward, Hon. Babu said they remain focused on supporting children through education, as their future is key to building a stronger Embakasi East and a better Kenya.

The MP noted that he has been consistent in providing support to needy students as a way of alleviating poverty and building a bright future for the children.

needy learners in the constituency.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



Regarding building collapses, it is easy to blame engineers, architects, and quantity surveyors. However, a major problem is the poor quality of construction materials. The economy has grown, and many companies now produce these materials. If the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) does not strictly enforce quality standards for steel and cement, buildings will continue to collapse. Weak oversight allows substandard materials into the market. In addition, some developers exceed approved building limits without proper authorization, compromising safety. While professionals are often blamed, greater attention must be given to material quality and regulation to address this problem effectively and protect lives and property."

-Hon. Junet Mohamed (Suna East)



Efforts to clean the Nairobi River should be extended to include other rivers across the country. Many rivers have been degraded, and some have completely dried up, leading to serious water loss and increasing desertification. It is essential to take action to restore these rivers and ensure they flow once again. People should also avoid planting eucalyptus trees along riverbanks, as they consume large amounts of water and contribute to the drying up of rivers. This has left many areas with empty riverbeds. Protecting and conserving our rivers is a shared responsibility for the benefit of present and future generations."

- Hon. Janet Sitienei (Turbo)



It is sad that school uniform is becoming a barrier to education in this country. Now that the Ministry of Education is also in charge of TVETs, where uniforms can be manufactured easily, we can have a policy decision as a House and decide that the Ministry shall supply all learners with uniform. We won't mind creating a budget line for TVETs to provide that solution. Further, we can have a policy defining uniform per grade so that every learner in Grade 8, Grade 10, or Form Four has a standard uniform. This will promote order and cost effectiveness."

-Hon. Stephen Mogaka (West Mugirango)



To achieve Universal Health Coverage in this country, preventive medicine, early disease detection, and timely treatment are essential. During COVID-19, KEMRI played a leading role in detection and management efforts. Granting KEMRI autonomy and charter status will strengthen its mandate, enhance research coordination, and expand global collaboration. It will also improve the safety and quality of herbal medicine through scientific study. Importantly, KEMRI will better support researchers and reduce the loss of skilled professionals to other institutions. Charter status will secure intellectual property rights, protect innovations, and allow the development of biobanks for human tissue, blood, and genetic materials."

-Hon. Martin Owino (Ndhiwa)



The best and only way we can boost the morale of livestock farmers is to assure them they can earn a fair and honest living from the livestock business. We need to guarantee our communities that when they go to the grazing fields with their livestock, they will return home safely. Cattle rustling is a harmful practice that should not be accepted or tolerated in any way. It causes insecurity and heavy losses to farmers. A clear and strong legal framework is needed to protect livestock farmers and their animals. Such measures should be supported by all."

- Hon. Dorothy Muthoni (Nominated)



As we create job opportunities, we should also focus on increasing the number of police officers. With a growing population, having one police officer for every 500 citizens is not sustainable, especially during situations such as demonstrations. We must appreciate the work of the police and avoid judging the entire institution because of a few rotten apples. At the same time, we must recognize the challenge of limited national resources we have as a country. If we allocate more funds towards improving police stations, accommodation, training and remuneration, we will strengthen the service and improve effectiveness."

-Hon. Esther Passaris (Nairobi City County)



If you examine communities affected by cattle rustling, a common factor is widespread poverty, underdevelopment, marginalisation, and exclusion. These serious socioeconomic challenges contribute to the behaviour we seek to regulate. Without understanding this, creating regulations based on emotion will not solve the problem. We should avoid being punitive simply because we are unable to address the issue effectively. In many of these regions, state machinery has failed to provide proper governance. Widespread corruption and mismanagement have further weakened systems, creating a significant gap between the community and the Government of the day, which continues to fuel insecurity and limit lasting solutions."

-Hon. Yusuf Hassan (Kamukunji)



Many public institutions delay submitting accounting reports and often lack receipts or supporting documents when questioned. They repeatedly request more time, yet even small expenses made through petty cash should have proper records. This is public money, not personal funds, and it must always be accounted for. Poor documentation creates opportunities for financial misappropriation and makes the auditors' work difficult. There are also concerns about pending bills despite institutions having approved budgets. Expenditures should match planned allocations. The existence of unpaid bills raises questions about planning and accountability, and it undermines the purpose of budgeting in public institutions."

-Hon. Catherine Omanyo (Busia County)



Human-wildlife conflict remains a serious challenge in regions surrounding national parks, including Taita Taveta County, which lies near Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks. There have been many fatalities caused by elephant attacks in the county and other parts of the country. Compensation for victims remains a major concern despite efforts by communities to coexist peacefully with wildlife. As the rainy season begins, many people return to farming, while others have stopped due to repeated crop destruction. Elephants often invade farms, destroy crops, and disrupt livelihoods. This ongoing conflict requires careful and effective management to protect both people and wildlife."

-Hon. Haika Mizighi (Taita Taveta County)



The elevation of KEMRI to a university is a strategic investment for the future. Many countries have bridged the gap between research and training by establishing such institutions. It is also important to assess preparedness for future health pandemics. During COVID-19, the country faced challenges due to limited capacity for integrated research and training, leading to reliance on external experts. As we consider compliance with the Commission for University Education requirements, equal focus should be placed on healthcare innovation. Innovation cannot be achieved without effectively linking research, training, and practical application within a strong institutional framework."

- Hon. Parashina Sakimba (Kajiado South)

BUNGE Weekly

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This week in history

1966 political split that redefined Kenya's Democracy

On April 19, 1966, Kenya's legislature suffered its first major post-independence rupture, altering the country's democratic path. After months of ideological tension, 29 MPs resigned from the ruling party, triggering the nation's first contested by-elections and a constitutional crisis.

Three years after independence, deep political fault lines emerged. The MPs drawn from both the House of Representatives and the Senate quit the Kenya African National Union (KANU) and joined the newly formed Kenya People's Union (KPU), led by then Vice President Jaramogi Oginga Odinga.



First Vice President of Kenya Jaramogi Oginga Odinga (1964- 1966) and the founding President of Kenya, H.E. Jomo Kenyatta (1964- 1978)

The split reflected a clash of visions: President Jomo Kenyatta and allies like Tom Mboya backed a capitalist, pro-Western path, while Odinga championed African socialism, land redistribution and non-alignment.

Though instrumental in the independence struggle, Odinga's alliance with Kenyatta quickly unraveled. His push for ties with the Soviet Union and China and calls for equitable land distribution clashed with government policy, including the "million-acre scheme" that favoured elites.

The fallout peaked in March 1966 when KANU stripped Odinga of his party position. He resigned as Vice President on April 14.

Days later, his allies defected. In response, Parliament hastily passed the Fifth Constitutional Amendment, forcing defecting MPs to seek fresh mandates.

Hon. Gladys Boss pushes for strict ethanol controls amid rising illicit alcohol crisis in Kenya

The Deputy Speaker, Hon. Gladys Boss (Uasin Gishu), has formally presented a petition to the Public Petitions Committee seeking tighter regulation of ethanol, a key raw material widely misused in the production of illicit alcohol across the country.

In her submission, she raised alarm over the continued proliferation of illegal brews despite the existence of the Alcoholic Drinks Control Act, enacted in 2010 to govern the manufacture, sale, distribution, and consumption of alcoholic beverages. She noted that the illicit alcohol trade remains deeply entrenched, as evidenced by recurring fatalities, the spread of counterfeit brands, the rise of unlicensed liquor outlets, underage drinking, and widespread adulteration of alcoholic products.

"The problem is widespread across the country and has, in the past, resulted in national tragedies involving toxic brews such as the infamous 'Kumi Kumi,'" Hon. Boss stated.

The Deputy Speaker further highlighted the role of porous borders in fueling the crisis, noting that weak surveillance systems have enabled the smuggling and diversion of ethanol for illegal brewing.

To address these challenges, Hon. Boss proposed a raft of measures including enhanced enforcement mechanisms, stricter regulatory frameworks, improved quality control systems, and the introduction of product traceability.

Members of the Committee echoed her concerns, describing illicit alcohol as a nationwide menace requiring urgent and coordinated intervention. Committee Chairperson, Muchangi Karemba (Runyenjes), underscored the need for a multi-agency approach, citing gaps in enforcement among key institutions.

"There is a serious disconnect in the enforcement of these regulations and the fight against illicit brew," Hon. Karemba remarked. "The police, county governments, and the judiciary must work in tandem. Additionally, there is a pressing need for political goodwill to effectively address this issue."

The Public Petitions Committee is expected to engage a wide range of stakeholders, including regulatory agencies, law enforcement bodies, and industry players, before compiling a comprehensive report. The findings and recommendations will subsequently be tabled before the National Assembly for consideration and possible legislative action.



Hon. Gladys Boss when she presented her petition on regulation of ethanol on Thursday, April 9, 2026

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