# BUNGE Weekly

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

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Monday, May 18th, 2026 to Monday, May 25th, 2026


# Kenyans list roads, schools, healthcare and jobs as top priorities in 2026/27 Budget hearings



STORY ON 4

E-COPY

Member of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, Hon. Micheal Muchira explains the budget making process to NyandaruaCounty residents during a public hearing for the 2026/2027 Budget Estimates



National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula addressing students of Thika High School during celebrations marking the school's 70th anniversary

## Speaker Wetang'ula urges schools to promote unity, shun tribalism through co-curricular activities as Thika High marks its 70th anniversary

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula has called on schools across the country to use co-curricular activities to promote national unity and discourage tribalism among young people.

Speaking during the 70th anniversary celebrations of Thika High School attended by President William Ruto on Friday, Wetang'ula said schools play a critical role in shaping responsible citizens and strengthening cohesion among communities.

He said learners should be exposed to interactions with students from different regions to help them appreciate Kenya's diversity and shared identity.

"We should have students from across the country appreciate and know that this country is a cocktail of communities, individuals, great men and women that form the family called Kenya," said the Speaker.

He warned leaders against engaging in tribal politics, saying there should be no room for ethnic division in public leadership.

"From Moyale to Vanga, from Namanga to Lamu, we belong to one family called Kenya under

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PLENARY

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one leadership with a common destiny and a common vision," he said.

Wetang'ula also challenged churches, teachers and parents to play a greater role in restoring moral values among young people, citing what he described as a growing moral decline in society.

He urged students to remain disciplined, respect their parents and focus on education and productive activities to help transform the country's future.

The Speaker further praised the school's academic record and expansive land, expressing hope that the institution could eventually accommodate more than 10,000 students.

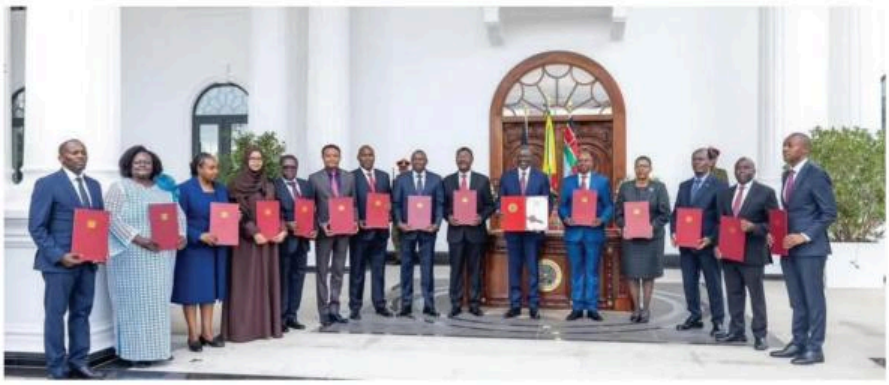
"With your proven record, this school is on the highway to somewhere in academia and in the growth of our country," he said.

Wetang'ula announced that Parliament had mobilised Sh12 million to support the school's development.

He said Sh10 million would be used to renovate school facilities, while Sh2 million would be channelled to an alumni bursary kitty to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Speaker commended National Assembly Clerk Samuel Njoroge for helping mobilise the funds, saying the initiative would improve learning conditions and keep needy students in school.

# President Ruto assents to Technopolis Law, unlocking Kenya's digital economy drive



President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Dr. William Ruto, alongside the Speaker of the National Assembly, Rt. Hon. Dr. Moses Wetang'ula, and leadership from both Parliament and the Executive, after assenting to the Technopolis Bill into law.

The Technopolis Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 6 of 2024) has been signed into law marking a major milestone in Kenya's digital transformation agenda and strengthening the country's push toward a knowledge-based economy under Vision 2030.

Sponsored by the Leader of the Majority Party, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, the Bill, now an Act, establishes a comprehensive framework for the creation, development and management of Technopolises in Kenya, positioning the country as a leading hub for global technology firms, research institutions and innovation centres.

The Act establishes the Technopolis Development Authority as a successor to the Konza Technopolis Development Authority, mandating it to plan, develop and manage Technopolises, allocate land to investors, and issue construction permits and operating licences.

The Authority will also operate a one-stop shop to streamline government services, reduce bureaucratic delays and enhance investor confidence in the technology sector.

It is further mandated to promote research and innovation through partnerships with academic institutions and by hosting data centres, research facilities and centres of excellence supporting digital growth.

The law further creates the Technopolis Dispute Resolution Tribunal to handle appeals relating to licensing, enforcement and development decisions, ensuring fair administrative action and investor protection.

The Act will advance Kenya's Vision 2030 by accelerating the transition to a knowledge-based and digital economy, while positioning the country as a leading destination for global technology firms, research institutions, and innovation hubs supported by world-class infrastructure and enabling policy environment.

The new law provides a strong legal backbone for scaling Technopolis projects and attracting long-term strategic investors into priority sectors.

It is expected to fast-track infrastructure development, improve regulatory coordination, and position Kenya as a regional leader in technology-driven industrialization under Vision 2030.

# Funyula MP Dr. Oundo leads Kenyan delegation in backing Morocco's 2028 Scout conference bid

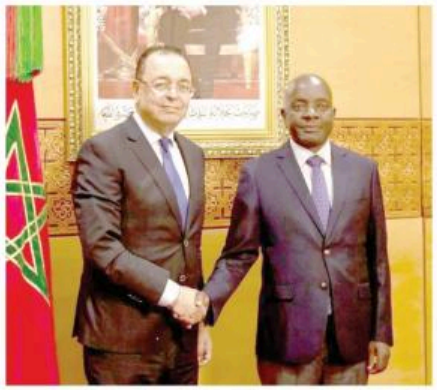
A Parliamentary delegation led by Hon. Dr Wilberforce Oundo (Funyula) has endorsed Morocco's bid to host the 12th World Conference and General Assembly of the World Scout Parliamentary Union (WSPU) in 2028 following a high-level working visit to Rabat.

The visit, organised by the National Federation of Moroccan Scouting, brought together representatives of the World Scout Parliamentary Union, Moroccan government officials and Kenyan delegates to discuss youth leadership, volunteerism and parliamentary diplomacy.

During engagements at the Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication, the House of Representatives, the House of Councilors and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Kenyan delegation praised Morocco's commitment to youth empowerment and scouting programmes.

Speaking during the meetings, Dr. Oundo lauded Morocco's investment in young people through leadership and civic engagement initiatives.

"Morocco has demonstrated strong commitment towards empowering youth through structures that nurture leadership and patriotism," said the Funyula MP.



Funyula MP, Hon. (Dr.) Wilberforce Oundo poses for a group photo with a representative of the World Scout Parliamentary Union during a high-level meeting in Rabat, Morocco, where the Kenyan delegation backed Morocco's bid to host the 12th World Scout Parliamentary Union Conference in 2028

The delegation also received a presentation on Morocco's candidature to host the 2028 global scouting conference, with Moroccan officials highlighting the country's infrastructure, institutional stability and experience in hosting international events.

Dr Oundo expressed confidence in Morocco's ability to successfully organise the conference.

"The level of organisation and coordination we have witnessed reflects Morocco's readiness to host a global event of this magnitude," he said.

The Kenyan delegation formally declared its support for Morocco's bid, noting that the conference would strengthen international cooperation in youth development, scouting and parliamentary engagement.

Dr Oundo further emphasized the role of scouting in promoting African unity and leadership among young people.

"Scouting remains an important platform for building bridges among African youth and nurturing future leaders committed to peace and cooperation," he added.

The visit also reinforced the growing relations between Kenya and Morocco through youth exchange, cultural partnerships and South-South cooperation initiatives.

tured scouting and volunteer programmes that

# CPST expands mandatory training as drive to enhance Parliament staff skills intensifies



Parliamentary Service Commission Commissioner and CPST Board chairperson Hon. Commissioner Rachel Ameso poses for a group photo with graduands after presiding over their graduation at the Main Chamber



Academic smile: A parliamentary staff receives her certificate from CPST Board chairperson and PSC Commissioner Hon. Rachel Ameso during a graduation ceremony held at the main Chambers on Saturday. Looking on is CPST Executive Director Prof. Nyokabi Kamau

The Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST) has intensified efforts to strengthen parliamentary service delivery through a structured curriculum of mandatory courses designed to equip staff with skills needed to meet the evolving work demands.

CPST Board Chairperson Hon. Rachel Ameso said the training programmes, targeting staff across all cadres, are aimed at enhancing professional competence, ethics and institutional vision in line with emerging needs of the Parliament.

"These courses reflect our belief in home-grown, context-specific learning solutions in order to improve service delivery," said Hon. Ameso.

She spoke during the graduation ceremony of 74 staff members who successfully completed the Mandatory Legislative Supervisor Course III at CPST.

Hon. Ameso said the institution had effectively implemented the programme and noted that nine cohorts had so far been trained across four mandatory courses. This, she said, has benefited a total of 419 staff members since inception.

"In order for the Commission to train more staff in a cost-effective manner, PSC approved these courses to be rolled out in a blended manner last year," she said.

Hon. Ameso urged staff to take advantage of the training opportunities and enrol in the programmes.

She further revealed that the Commission was seeking enhanced budgetary allocation to enable more staff to undergo training and improve their professional skills.

"Going forward the training would be online to enable staff be able to balance between work and learning," she said and announced that while beneficiaries had previously been nominated for the courses, future enrolment would be open to any interested staff member.

National Assembly Deputy Clerk Ms Serah Kioko challenged CPST to develop a standardised curriculum for Hansard reporting across the country to strengthen service delivery in legislative assemblies.

She said the need became apparent during a Hansard conference in Kisumu, where discussions highlighted gaps in the sector.

"Africa is looking at Kenya to streamline the Hansard which is no longer a preserve of parliaments alone as other institutions are using it," she said and commended CPST for lowering training costs through its programmes for legislators.

The Director General, Parliamentary Joint Services Mr. Clement Nyandiere and the Executive Director CPST, Prof. Nyokabi Kamau were present

# Kenya lawmakers push for longer French visas to boost trade and defence ties

The National Assembly's Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations Committee has called on France to consider extending the validity period of visas issued to Kenyans, saying the move would significantly strengthen trade, investment and diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The appeal was made during a meeting between members of the Committee, led by Vice-Chairperson Hon. Bashir Abdullaih (Mandera North), and a delegation from the French National Assembly headed by the Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

The French delegation was in the country for the Africa Forward Summitand held discussions with Kenyan legislators on ways of deepening bilateral cooperation.

The talks come in the wake of the signing of a Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA) between the two countries, a pact expected to enhance collaboration in defence and security matters.

Hon. Bashir noted that the recently signed agreement had opened up opportunities for increased engagements between the two nations and stressed the need for more flexible travel arrangements

"You need to ensure that our visas do not expire after one month, as the Defence Cooperation Agreement that we signed recently has created an avenue for more interactions between Kenya and France," said Hon. Bashir.

Committee members further urged France to expand economic partnerships with Kenya through increased investments and job creation initiatives.

Hon. Anne Muratha (Kiambu) called on the French delegation to encourage investors and companies from France to establish businesses in Kenya, saying such investments would help tackle unemployment among young people.



Hon. Bashir Abdullaih (right), shares a light moment with Mrs Louise Morel, Member of National Assembly and President of the France-Kenya Friendship Group, during the meeting

The French legislators also sought to understand the progress made by East African Community (EAC) member states in advancing regional integration, particularly in trade and economic cooperation.

In response, Hon. Joshua Kandie (Baringo Central) said EAC member states continue to enjoy strong economic ties, highlighting the bloc's no-visa policy that allows citizens to travel freely within member countries. He further emphasized the importance of European companies exploring investment opportunities not only in Kenya, but also across the East African region.

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Kassim Duba, a resident of Marsabit county gives his views on the 2026/2027 Budget Estimates during a public hearing in Marsabit Town, Saku Constituency



Hon. Brighton Yegon (Konoin) engages a member of the public who was part of Bomet residents who attended a public hearing on FY 2026/27 budget estimates in Bomet town.

Residents across 16 counties have called for increased funding for roads, healthcare, water, electricity, education and youth employment during nationwide public participation forums on the proposed 2026/27 budget estimates.

The hearings, conducted by the Budget and Appropriations Committee, revealed nationwide calls to improve deteriorating infrastructure, address unemployment, tackle overstretched social services and uneven development as citizens weighed in on how to allocate the proposed KShs. 4.82 trillion national budge.

In Bungoma County, residents who gathered at ICM Kopsiro in Mt Elgon called for urgent investment in roads, last-mile electricity connectivity and healthcare services, saying poor infrastructure continues to hinder security and agricultural productivity.

Mt Elgon MP, Hon. Fred Kapondi said improved road networks linking farms to markets would unlock the region's agricultural potential, noting its capacity to become a key food basket.

Traders raised concerns over persistent power outages, while sugar sector workers demanded payment of arrears despite previous allocations of about Sh1 billion to support sugar companies.

In Nairobi, residents from Embakasi and surrounding constituencies demanded improved roads, drainage systems, schools and health centres to address flooding, congestion and service gaps in informal settlements.

Youth groups urged expanded funding for ICT hubs, vocational training centres and empowerment programmes, citing rising unemployment despite existing government initiatives while Persons with disabilities called for inclusive infrastructure in public schools and improved accessibility in urban planning.

In Garissa County, residents prioritised funding for the North Eastern National Polytechnic, which they said has not received government funding since its elevation to national status in 2016.

Residents also demanded improved roads linking Garissa-Ijara, Garissa-Fafi and Garissa-Daaden, alongside increased investment in boreholes, police stations and rural electrification.

In Nyandarua County, residents in Oljororok called for enhanced investment in agriculture, security and youth employment.

Farmers urged greater allocation to agricultural research and food production, arguing that strategic investment could significantly grow the economy.

Youth representatives pushed for expansion of Ajira Mtaani, ICT hubs and enterprise funds to address unemployment.

Residents in West Pokot prioritised water projects, roads, healthcare and education in the arid county.

Youth in Kapenguria Constituency also demanded a university, expansion of school feeding programmes, decentralising of Youth Fund Offices to sub counties and upgrading of Kapenguria Referral Hospital to a level six facility.

In Meru County, residents sought increased funding for health, roads, agriculture and security. North Imenti residents proposed creation of an emergency health fund for cancer patients and urged the equipping of Meru County Hospital with diagnostic machines including MRI and endoscopy equipment.

Marsabit residents identified roads, healthcare, water and education as key priorities, saying poor infrastructure continues to undermine security operations and service delivery.

Security concerns also dominated submissions in Tana River County, where residents called for operationalisation of police posts, more police vehicles and improved administrative infrastructure. They also sought development of Hola Boys National School and expansion of facilities at Tana River Polytechnic.

In Bomet County, residents prioritised roads, water, electricity, bridges, ICT hubs and healthcare. Teachers in Sotik raised concerns over inadequate Junior Secondary School capitation and called for greater administrative autonomy for JSS institutions.

Kajiado residents similarly prioritised education, security, roads, digital hubs and electricity connectivity. Farmers also appealed for milk cooling plants to reduce post-harvest losses.

Budget and Appropriations Committee Chairperson Hon. Samuel Atandi assured wananchi that views collected during the hearings would be considered in the final budget framework.

## WHAT KENYANS WANT FUNDED

- **Roads** - complete stalled roads, improve rural road networks, bridges
- **Healthcare** - upgrading facilities, stocking medicine
- **Youth Jobs** - increased funding for Kazi Majuu, access to Youth Enterprise Fund, ICT hubs
- **Electricity** - Last mile connectivity, street lights, lighting in public schools
- **Water Projects** - more dams, boreholes in ASAL areas, piped water and sewage infrastructure
- **Education/TVET** - upgrade school infrastructure, more classrooms in Primary, JSS, Day secondary schools, complete TVETs/TTI/KMTC, establish universities
- **Security** - more police stations, upgrade police posts



COMMITTEES' ROUND-UP

# Coast constituencies praised for proper use of NG-CDF funds



A session of Decentralized Funds Accounts Committee during its engagement with Constituency fund managers in the coast.



Hon. Gideon Mulyungi chairing Committee Session

The National Assembly watchdog Committee on Decentralized Funds Accounts Committee (DFAC) has lauded constituencies in the Coast region for prudent management of public funds and adherence to financial regulations.

The Committee, chaired by Mwingi Central Legislator, Hon. Gideon Mulyungi, urged all constituency fund managers across the country to uphold accountability and proper utilisation of public resources in order to minimize audit queries.

Speaking during a meeting with constituency fund managers from the Coast region, Hon. Mulyungi said the performance of constituencies in the region was commendable and should serve as a model for other parts of the country.

He noted that most constituencies in the region had demonstrated strong financial discipline in the management of funds allocated through the NGCDF.

"The Coast region has shown exemplary performance in the management of constituency funds. This is the kind of accountability we expect across the country," said the Committee chairperson.

The Committee also congratulated the Coastal regional lead for her commitment and dedication in ensuring constituencies comply with financial regulations and principles of good governance in resource management.

The Committee engaged fund managers from 19 constituencies all from the Coast to examine audit reports for the Financial Year 2016/17 to 2022/23.

According to Committee members, about 90 percent of the constituencies represented had no audit queries or minor if any, an achievement they described as a clear indication of transparency and responsible use of taxpayers' money.

The Committee reiterated its commitment to strengthening oversight mechanisms to ensure CDF funds continue to benefit 'wananchi' through proper implementation of development projects.

# MPs demand end to ghost workers in government payroll



The Chairperson for the Departmental Committee on Labour, Hon. Richard Ken Chonga chairing a Committee meeting with the MDAs and SAGAs during the Financial Year 2026/2027 Budget Estimates

The National Assembly Departmental Committee on Labour has called on the State Department for Public Service and Human Capital Development to eliminate ghost workers from the government payroll and restore integrity in the public service.

The concerns were raised during a meeting with Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies (SAGAs) to discuss the 2026/2027 Budget Estimates.

Committee Members, led by Kilifi South MP Hon. Richard Ken Chonga, who chairs the Committee, demanded an explanation on why ghost workers continue to appear in the government payroll system despite repeated audits and reforms.

"This is an issue that Kenyans keep asking about. We need sanity in the public service," said Hon. Chonga.

In response, Principal Secretary Dr. Jane Kere Imbunya assured the Committee that the problem would soon be resolved through the rollout of the Unified Human Resource (UHR) System across all government institutions.

She said the department is currently carrying out data cleaning exercises to remove irregularities and improve the accuracy of personnel records.

Dr. Imbunya explained that under the new system, every public servant will be assigned a lifetime Unified Payroll Number (UPN), which will help prevent payroll fraud and improve transparency.

The PS revealed that recent audits uncovered widespread manipulation within the current human resource systems.

"The audit found that some retired officers were still receiving salaries, while some identification numbers had multiple personal numbers attached to them, all earning salaries. Others were also receiving Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) allowances without supporting documents," she said.

She added that the new system will strengthen controls by linking the human resource payroll system with the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS).

This will automate deductions such as PAYE, Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF), Affordable Housing Levy, NSSF, HELB, pension contributions and NITA levy.

However, Dr. Imbunya appealed to the Committee to increase funding for the programme, saying budget constraints were slowing down data migration and the onboarding of institutions onto the unified platform.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC), Mr. Abdullahi Surraw, also highlighted progress made in tackling ghost workers through improved monitoring and evaluation systems.

Committee members directed the department to submit a comprehensive report detailing the extent of ghost workers in government, measures already taken and recommendations on the way forward.

ghost workers from the government payroll

# Health Committee queries quality of phones given to Community health promoters



Health Committee Members Hon. Lenguris Pauline (Samburu) and Hon. Mary Maingi (Mwea) sharing a word during the engagement with Ministry of Health officials

A Parliamentary Committee has raised alarm over the quality of smartphones distributed to Community Health Promoters (CHPs) to support the implementation of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Members of the Committee on Health, led by Chairperson Hon. (Dr.) James Nyikal (Seme), expressed concerns that most of the devices issued to 100,000 CHPs across the country three years ago had become faulty.

The smartphone distribution programme was launched in late 2023 to support digital registration, data collection, and reporting through the Electronic Community Health Information System.

The concerns emerged during a meeting on the State Department for Medical Services' Budget Estimates for the 2026/2027 financial year.

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale and Medical Services Principal Secretary Dr Ouma Oluga, appeared before the Committee to respond to issues raised by MPs regarding expenditure plans in the health sector.

PS Oluga disclosed that the State Department had prioritised the settlement of Sh876.9 million in pending bills used to purchase smartphones for the health promoters.

The disclosure triggered sharp reactions from MPs, led by Hon. Oron Joshua (Kisumu Central) and Hon. Martin Owino (Ndhiwa), who said they had interacted with the health promoters and confirmed that most of the devices were not functioning.

Similar concerns were raised by Hon. Mathenge Duncan (Nyeri Town) and Hon. Lenguris Pauline (Samburu).

Hon. Dr. Nyikal said the ministry would be required to provide a report on the status of the devices before additional funds could be approved for the purchase of more smartphones.

"Kenyans need value for their money. We cannot allocate more money for the ministry to buy smartphones that did not work," said Hon. Nyikal.

In response, PS Oluga said the ministry had taken note of the concerns raised by the Committee and would provide all the necessary documentation.

"We will provide the necessary documents to the Committee, including conducting an assessment of the performance of the phones," said PS Oluga.

# Committee pushes for faster completion of county industrial parks

The National Assembly Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives intensified oversight on the implementation of County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) programme through inspection visits across several counties to assess implementation progress, accountability and preparedness for operationalisation.

The Committee split into three sub-Committees to inspect projects in different regions of the country. One team led by Committee Chairperson Bernard Shinali toured Machakos, Mombasa and Kwale counties, while another led by Vice Chairperson Marianne Kitany visited Kisumu, Nandi, Kakamega and Uasin Gishu. A third team under Hon. Michael Wambugu inspected projects in Nakuru, Nyeri and Meru counties.

The visits revealed mixed progress in the implementation of the projects, which are jointly funded by the National and County Governments and are aimed at promoting value addition, industrialization and market access for farmers.

In Meru County, the Committee expressed satisfaction after learning that the CAIP project had reached 99 per cent completion and was ready for occupation ahead of official commissioning. Lawmakers toured fully installed cold rooms and other supporting infrastructure, including water and electricity systems, but recommended the installation of standby power backup systems to prevent losses during blackouts.

In contrast, several counties came under sharp criticism over delays and questionable implementation. In Nyeri County, lawmakers raised concerns over the slow pace of construction at the Naromoru CAIP, which stands at about 30 per cent completion. The delays were attributed to inconsistent disbursement of funds from the national government. Members emphasized the strategic importance of these facilities as a key agricultural zone that would benefit farmers greatly from cold storage and value addition facilities.



Section of Trade Committee members inspects ongoing works at Kakamega CAIPs project

The Committee also faulted projects in Nandi, Mombasa and Uasin Gishu counties over slow progress despite substantial funding. In Nandi, legislators questioned why county funds had not been released despite the national government already disbursing Kshs 250 million. In Uasin Gishu, lawmakers expressed dissatisfaction after the contractor reportedly failed to provide a clear work plan despite receiving over Kshs 310 million.

Meanwhile, Kakamega and Kwale counties were commended for steady progress and quality work. In Kakamega, lawmakers urged faster completion of the project to ensure the facilities begin benefiting residents through job creation and local manufacturing.

The Committee maintained that the CAIPs programme remains a critical national initiative expected to boost value addition, reduce post-harvest losses and strengthen local economies across the country.

# Agriculture CS defends Tea levy as Committee reviews 2026/2027 Budget Estimates




**Chairperson of the Agriculture and Livestock Committee, Hon (Dr.) John Mutunga when the Committee met with MDA's for review of the 2026/2027 Budget Estimates**

Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Hon. Mutahi Kagwe has defended the controversial 0.8 percent tea levy, saying the move is necessary to secure Kenya's position in the global tea market and improve the marketing of the country's leading cash crop.

Speaking when he appeared before the Departmental Committee on Agriculture during consideration of the 2026/2027 Financial Year Budget Estimates, CS Kagwe maintained that the levy would provide the resources needed to aggressively market Kenyan tea internationally.

"We need a fund to promote our tea. Tea is a business that must be supported and promoted. That levy is the only way for us to market our tea correctly," said the CS.

The levy, introduced through the Tea (Amendment) Act, 2025 and operationalised under the Tea Levy Regulations, 2025, took effect on May 1, 2026. It has, however, attracted criticism from sections of stakeholders within the tea sector over fears that it could increase the burden on farmers.

Committee Vice Chairperson Hon. Brighton Yegon raised concerns over the implementation of the levy and its impact on tea farmers during the session chaired by Committee Chairperson Hon. (Dr.) John Mutunga.

In his response, CS Kagwe argued that Kenya must reform the way tea is marketed and branded in order to remain competitive internationally. He noted that the global tea market increasingly demands quality assurance, strategic branding and sustained promotion.

"The judgment of what is considered quality tea is determined by the international market. That is why there must be reforms in the way tea is branded and marketed in line with international standards," he said.

The CS further pointed to governance challenges within tea factories, saying poor financial decisions and weak oversight had contributed to the debt burden facing many tea farmers. According to CS Kagwe, some factories continue to take loans for projects whose repayment obligations are eventually transferred to farmers.

He warned that unless governance reforms are implemented, the tea sector risks facing the same financial difficulties affecting the coffee and sugar industries.

The meeting also reviewed the Ministry's proposed Kshs. 79 billion budget for the 2026/2027 Financial Year, with Members seeking clarification on funding allocations, pending bills, project implementation and subsidy programmes within the agriculture sector.

# ICT Ministry seeks more funding to safeguard digital superhighway projects

The Digital Superhighway Programme and the operationalisation of Konza Technopolis could face delays due to a multi-billion shilling funding gap, the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy has revealed.

The concerns emerged during a meeting held by the Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation chaired by Hon. John Kiarie with the Information, Communications and the Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary William Kabogo, ICT Principal Secretary John Tanui and Broadcasting and Telecommunications Principal Secretary Stephen Isaboke.

The State Department for ICT appealed to the Parliament to consider an additional Sh9.3 billion to bridge funding deficits affecting key digital infrastructure projects across the country.

CS Kabogo said the ministry's programmes were critical to Kenya's economic transformation and digital competitiveness.

"We are building the backbone of Kenya's digital future, and these investments are no longer optional. If adequately funded, the Digital Superhighway will unlock opportunities for millions of young people, businesses and innovators across the country," said Mr Kabogo.



**Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation, Hon. John Kiarie and Hon. Florence Jematia during a meeting**

Eng. Tanui told lawmakers that despite making "realistic and strategic requests," several priority projects remained underfunded. He singled out Artificial Intelligence software, modernisation of the Kenya News Agency and establishment of the National Cybersecurity Centre as key priorities.

Committee Chair Mr Kiarie assured the ministry that Parliament would carefully review the proposals.

"Our responsibility as a Committee is to ensure strategic sectors like ICT are adequately supported because digital transformation is now at the heart of governance, education, trade and innovation," he said.

The Committee also heard that the Konza Technopolis Development Authority faces a Sh362 million funding shortfall, while the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner reported a Sh24 million budget deviation likely to affect preparations for the 2027 Global Privacy Assembly.

CLIQUE & CLICKS



Members of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, Hon. Ruth Odinga (right), Hon. David Ochieng, Hon. Peter Masara and Hon. Lilian Gogo engaging Homabay County residents in a public hearing for the 2026/2027 Budget Estimates



Members of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, Khwisero MP, Hon. Christopher Aseka (left) Vice Chair and Endebess MP, Hon. Robert Pukose and Kapenguria MP, Hon. Sawel Moroto speaking with residents of Kapenguria constituency in Mtelo hall during a public hearing for 26/27 Budget Estimates



A resident of Busia County gives her views on the 2026/2027 Budget Estimates during a public hearing in Matayos Constituency



Hon. Makali Mulu, Budget and Appropriations Committee Member gives a microphone to a resident of Buguta in Voi Sub-County, Taita Taveta County, during a public hearing on the 2026/2027 Budget Estimates



Laisamis MP Hon. Joseph Lekuton engages wananchi from Marsabit county during a public participation exercise on the 2026/7 Budget estimates at Marsabit catholic church hall in a company of Hon. Naisula Lesuuda ( Samburu West) and Hon. Robi Nyamabe (Kuria West).



Hon Babu Owino, a Member of the Budget and Appropriation Committee presents documents to residents who turn up at Don Bosco Catholic church in Keserian for the public participation on the 2026/7 Budget Estimates



The Budget and Appropriation Committee chairperson Hon. Samuel Atandi making his opening remarks during a public engagement on the 2026/27 Budget Estimates in Bomet county.



Member of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, Hon. John Chikati (Tongaren) recives a memorandum from Workers Union representatives in Mt. Elgon Constituency, Bungoma County during a public hearing for 26/27 Budget Estimates



Member of Budget and Appropriations Committee, Hon. Dan Mwashako recives a memorandum from a resident of Kitui County during a public hearing on the 2026/2027 Budget



Members of the Budget and Appropriation Committee Hon. Jematiah Sergon and Hon. Babu Owino share a light moment at the Don Bosco Catholic Church in Kiserian for the

Estimates

public participation on the 2026/2027 Budget Estimates.

## QUOTES OF THE WEEK



"I am happy that, for once, we are all standing in unison to celebrate Sabastian Sawe, for winning the London Marathon in record time, irrespective of whether one is on the Minority or Majority side, or the region and political persuasion we represent. This is a legend in the making, and it demonstrates the unifying power of sports. May his success encourage other Kenyans to remain patriotic and continue raising the Kenyan flag higher across the world. May it also inspire young Kenyans to rise, excel in their talents, and uphold the great name and reputation of our country with pride."

**-Hon. Peter Kaluma (Homa Bay Town)**



There are needless delays in cancer treatment, yet the cost of care remains overwhelming for families. We continue to lose family members and constituents, while many others remain critically ill. Statistics show that 10 women die of cancer daily, mainly from breast and cervical cancer. Late diagnosis is also a major challenge, with many patients discovering they have stage three or four cancer too late. Cancer treatment is extremely expensive. I support calls to raise medical cover from Ksh400,000 to at least Ksh1 million. The Government must increase funding to the Primary Healthcare Fund, improve transparency in SHA and ensure uninterrupted cancer treatment nationwide."

**-Hon. Jessica Mbalu (Kibwezi East)**



The National Cohesion and Integration Commission is being constituted as the country approaches the election period. In the next 14 months, the Commissioners will be closely monitored, and its credibility will be at stake as the political atmosphere continues to heat up. The new commissioners should take their work seriously and remain fair in their judgment. Their actions must always be guided by the rule of law and national interest, without influence from political or regional interests. NCIC must also remain independent from the Ministry. The Parliament has a responsibility to ensure it is adequately resourced and facilitated to work independently, professionally and without coercion."

**-Hon. Mwangi Kiunjuri (Laikipia East)**



Cancer treatment is very expensive. Many families have sold land, livestock and houses to pay medical bills for loved ones suffering from cancer. Others have lost property while trying to save the lives of family members. As lawmakers, we have an opportunity to change the approach towards cancer treatment in Kenya. It is the duty of Government to protect the lives of Kenyans and support them in every possible way. There is need to educate the public and create awareness on the importance of early diagnosis. Early detection efforts must be strengthened because cancer can be treated successfully when diagnosed before reaching advanced stages."

**-Hon. Amina Mnyazi (Malindi)**



It is alarming that the National Treasury has failed to allocate funds to State agencies under the Tourism Ministry in the budget estimates. Agencies including the Tourism Regulatory Authority, Tourism Research Institute, Kenya Tourism Board, Kenya Utalii College, Tourism Fund and Kenyatta International Convention Centre are facing a potential financial crisis after receiving no allocations. Starving these agencies of funds will undermine efforts to market Kenya as a global tourism destination and sustain growth in the sector. It is wrong for the National Treasury to deny funding to institutions that play a critical role in promoting tourism. These SAGAs deserve increased funding, not nil allocations."



As Parliamentarians, we must urgently act in several key areas. We need to strengthen climate laws, reduce methane emissions, secure adequate climate financing and promote technology transfer. We must also align climate action with international development plans to ensure progress towards achieving the Global Methane Challenge targets due in four years. The window for action remains open, but it is narrowing rapidly. We therefore need clear solutions and well-defined legislative roadmaps to guide implementation. The world is watching us, and future generations are depending on the decisions we make today to address climate change and protect the environment."

**-Hon. Charity Chepkwony (Njoro)**



There is an urgent need to restore public confidence in the judicial complaints process. As a country, we must put in place regulations that assure citizens that when they lodge complaints against judges, they will receive a fair hearing without the process being frustrated through court actions aimed at delaying or blocking investigations. At the same time, we must be careful to seal loopholes that may expose judges to malicious or politically motivated attacks. The integrity, independence and accountability of the Judiciary must be protected to ensure justice is served fairly to both the public and judicial officers."

**-Hon. Anthony Oluoch (Mathare)**



We do not need to have the Directorate of National Cohesion and Values under the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary when we already have the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC). The overlapping mandates of the two entities are straining public resources and weakening service delivery. The directorate has stretched its mandate by taking up functions already handled by another agency, leading to duplication and underfunding of key programmes. There is too much repetition of activities, yet entities handling the same function requires government funding. Spreading resources across agencies performing similar tasks reduces efficiency and undermines the effectiveness of government programmes."

**-Hon. Rozaah Buyu (Kisumu West)**



The National Cohesion and Integration Commission has remained relevant, largely due to the unbecoming conduct of some politicians. At times, leaders become reckless by inciting communities and creating tensions that can lead to conflict, as witnessed during the 2007 post-election violence. As it stands, the Commission should operate independently and be delinked from the Ministry of Interior and National Administration. The 2010 Constitution is clear that all constitutional commissions must function independently. NCIC should be granted full autonomy and its own budget to effectively carry out its mandate. This will also help guide politicians and promote responsible political conduct in the country."

**-Hon. John Waluke (Sirisia)**



I come from a remote area where teachers work under very difficult conditions. They are few, lack housing, and roads are inaccessible, making it difficult to report to school on time. Some teachers serve in acting positions for many years, but when opportunities arise, others who have never acted are appointed instead. Recently, I met a teacher who had acted for six years, yet someone else was selected to lead the school. The Parliament should enact a law to protect teachers from such injustices and ensure the Teachers Service Commission treats all teachers fairly. Teachers play a crucial role in educating our children, and education remains the greatest equalizer."

-Hon. Innocent Mugabe (Likuyani)

-Hon. Agnes Mantaine (Narok North)

BUNGE MASHINANI

BUTULA CONSTITUENCY.

# Hon. Joseph Oyula commissions new storey building at Busire Primary School

Butula MP, Hon. Joseph Oyula has commissioned a new modern storey building at Busire Primary School in Marachi West Ward, Butula Constituency.

The new administration block will house the school administration and 10 classrooms.

Speaking during the launch, Hon. Oyula reaffirmed his commitment to improving education infrastructure across the constituency, noting that quality learning facilities are key to empowering future generations and enhancing academic performance in local schools.

Leaders, teachers, parents, and residents who attended the event welcomed the development and praised the continued efforts by the MP in supporting educational growth within Marachi West Ward and the larger Butula Constituency.



Aerial view of the Newly Commissioned Busire storey building.

MAARA CONSTITUENCY



Maara MP Hon. Kareke Mbiuki (left) and a clergy arrive at Nturiri boys Senior school for official opening of new classroom block funded by NG-CDF.

# Maara NG-CDF funds modern classrooms at Nturiri Boys Senior School

Maara NG-CDF, under the patronage of area MP Kareke Mbiuki, has funded infrastructure development at Nturiri Boys Senior School as part of an ambitious programme aimed at transforming schools and improving education standards.

Hon. Mbiuki, together with pupils, teachers, and parents of the school, commissioned the modern classrooms that will provide learners with a conducive environment for their academic work.

"I chose Nturiri Boys Senior School for infrastructure development because it is one of the best institutions in the area and, due to the increasing number of pupils, it was in need of more modern classrooms to accommodate them," said Hon. Mbiuki.

"I commend the church leadership, school administration, parents, and all stakeholders whose commitment and partnership made this achievement possible," he added

SAMBURU WEST CONSTITUENCY

# Hon. Naisula Lesuuda launches major Education infrastructure projects across Samburu West

Hon. Naisula Lesuuda recently commissioned a series of education infrastructure projects across Samburu West Constituency. The developments span several schools, aimed at improving learning conditions and expanding classroom capacity for students across the region.

At Lkishaki Primary School, two modern classrooms were commissioned, while Loltulelei Primary School benefited from a new modern administration block alongside eight renovated classrooms. Additional projects include three new classrooms at Nengerpus Primary School, a modern dormitory at Lodokejek Primary School, and a modern laboratory and administration block at Lodokejek Mixed School. Loshoo Primary School also received one new classroom, with another set for construction.

Hon. Lesuuda noted that these developments are part of a broader commitment to transforming education infrastructure and ensuring learners study in safe, modern, and conducive environments. The projects are expected to significantly boost academic performance and open up more opportunities for students across Samburu West.




Hon. Naisula Lesuuda (right) unveils a new dormitory at Nengepus Primary Schoolwork

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# Major boost to mud-walled Emukangu K.A.G Primary school as it undergoes infrastructural transformation through NG-CDF

Emukangu K.A.G Primary School in Lurambi Constituency, Kakamega County, has undergone a major infrastructural transformation, changing from mud-walled classrooms to modern storey buildings.

Pupils at the school received the great gift from the area MP, Hon. Titus Khamala, who officially handed over the new classrooms built using funds from the Lurambi NG-CDF.

The event was attended by Members of the National Assembly Committee on NG-CDF, chaired by Hon. Musa Sirma (Eldama Ravine) who applauded the prudent use of NG-CDF fund by the area MP.

"Today we have seen great work done using NG-CDF fund. This is a miracle. With a very small piece of land alot has been done and students are now going to learn in a conducive environment. This goes a long way to proof the impact NG-CDF fund has. It is improving lives," Hon. Sirma said.



**Committee Chairperson Hon. Sirma during the official opening and handover of the storey building classroom at the school constructed through funding from NG-CDF**

According to Hon. Khamala with an allocation of Kshs 21million, the storey building was not only built but all classrooms were also equipped with desks and the students will immediately start learning in the new building.

"This is a miracle. We have accomplished all this with an allocation of Kshs 21million. All the classrooms have desks and learners will start learning here immediately. This land is half an acre and what we now need is the playing ground for the learners," Hon. Khamala said.

The School Headteacher, Mr. Maurice Omulisia, stated that he now has 650 students but with the new infranstructure he expects an influx of new students.

The transformation of the school has brought new hope to learners, teachers, and parents, marking a new chapter of better education and dignity for the institution.

For many years, pupils studied in old mud-walled classrooms that could hardly protect them from rain, dust, and cold weather. However, the situation has now changed as they prepare to move into the new modern classrooms.

# The Gazette That Started Kenya's Legislative Journey

## This week in history

On May 15, 1907, a notice in the Official Gazette of the East Africa and Uganda Protectorates altered Kenya's governance history forever. The gazettement of the East Africa Order in Council, issued in London in October 1906, formally created the Legislative Council (LegCo) of the East Africa Protectorate — the institution that would eventually evolve into the Parliament of Kenya.

The Council initially comprised only seven members: the Governor as chairperson, four civil servants, and two nominated representatives of the white settler community. Africans, Asians and Arabs had no representation. Its main role was to protect settler interests and enact laws for the Protectorate.



**The first sitting of the Legislative Council on May 16, 1907**

LegCo held its first sitting on August 16, 1907, in a temporary iron-sheet structure on White House Road, now Haile Selassie Avenue. Governor Sir James Hayes Sadler presided alongside officials Henry Currie, Charles Bowring, Charles William Hobley, and settler representatives J.H. Wilson and Lord Delamere.

Representation expanded slowly and under pressure. In 1909, businessman and newspaper proprietor Alibhai Mulla Jeevanjee became the first Asian and first non-European member. Asians gained elective representation in 1924, while Africans remained excluded until 1944, when Eliud Mathu became the first African member.

Constitutional reforms in the 1950s, driven by nationalist agitation and the Mau Mau uprising, transformed the institution. By independence in 1963, LegCo had evolved into the National Assembly. What began as a seven-member settler council is today a Parliament of 416 members representing all 47 counties.

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