BUNGE Weekly

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

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Monday, May 25th, 2026 to Monday, June 1st, 2026

Division of Revenue, Budget and related bills priority, as the House Resumes

STORY ON PAGE 2



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Speaker of the National Assembly Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula and Clerk of the National Assembly Mr. Samuel Njoroge in Parliament Buildings. The House resumes sittings on Tuesday, May 26, 2026



The Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning makes a point during the first day of stakeholder engagements on the Finance Bill, 2026 on Thursday May 21, 2026.

Stakeholders call for review of PAYE Tax Bands as Finance Committee commences public participation on the Finance Bill, 2026

Stakeholders have made a strong push for the review of Pay As You Earn (PAYE) tax bands in a bid to rescue Kenyan workers from shrinking paychecks.

They made this proposal when they submitted their proposals on the Finance Bill, 2026 to the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning, the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK) argued that the current tax structure places an unfair, heavy burden on lower-income earners, rendering the system regressive rather than progressive. They told the Committee that the burden has been exacerbated by a wave of statutory deductions introduced over the past two years.

The accountants' lobby who were the first to make submissions in the engagements that commenced on Thursday May 21, pointed out that Kenyan workers had hit the higher tax brackets compared to their regional peers.

"The current tax bands are very narrow with the 30 per cent PAYE rate applied to individuals earning just over Kshs. 32,333 per month. The progression is also very steep with individuals earning above Kshs. 500,000 per month paying tax at the rate of Kshs. 32.5 per cent. This may point to excessive taxation which potentially, erodes the purchasing power and ability of individuals to save and invest to help spur growth", they submitted.

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PLENARY

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The National Assembly will resume sittings tomorrow, Tuesday 26th June 2026 to a packed agenda with consideration of the Finance Bill, 2026 and the 2026/27 Budget Estimates expected to take priority ahead of the 2026/27 financial cycle.

Legislators will debate a Report of the Budget and Appropriations Committee on the FY 2026/2027 Annual Estimates which outlines spending ceilings across priority sectors including health, education, infrastructure and social protection, setting the fiscal tone for the year ahead.

The report follows public participation forums held across 16 counties to gather views from citizens on national spending priorities. The inputs are expected to shape final budget recommendations in next year's Budget.

Similarly, the Finance Bill, 2026, which is awaiting First Reading, proposes revenue-raising measures aimed at financing the national budget while strengthening the Government's revenue framework and guiding equitable sharing of resources between the national and county governments.

The Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning is currently conducting public participation forums to gather views from stakeholders and the public on the proposed legislation.

Lawmakers will also Report on the nominee for appointment as High Commissioner to Ottawa, Canada.

The House is further expected to deliberate on a petition by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Forestry and Mining seeking de-gazettement of sections of four public forests, the South Nandi Forest (Chepkumia area), Turbo Forest (Manzini), Mount Elgon Forest (Chepkyuk) and Kakamega Forest (Shiru/Shaviringa). The de-gazettement is aimed at tackling competing land claims and environmental protection.

On the legislative front, there are several Bills under mediation, the government sponsored Cooperatives Bill, 2024, as well as key individual Members' Bills such as the Houses of Parliament (Bicameral Relations) Bill, 2023 and the National Construction Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

Several Senate-originated Bills are also under mediation or Committee review, including the Employment (Amendment) Bill, Natural Resources (Benefit Sharing) Bill, Startup Bill, and the Election Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2024, one of the NADCO-linked legislative proposals.

Several Bills are awaiting consideration at the Committee of the Whole House stage, including the Public Finance Management (Amendment) (No. 4) Bill, 2024, the Fisheries Management and Development Bill, 2023, the Quality Healthcare and Patient Safety Bill, 2025, and the Division of Revenue Bill, 2026. The House is set to consider Senate amendments to the Division of Revenue Bill.

At the Second Reading stage, Legislators will debate the Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill, 2026, the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Strategic Goods Control Bill, 2026 and the Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

A raft of Sessional Papers and international agreements are set to be considered among them the National Petroleum Policy (2026) and the National Energy Policy (2026), both referred to the Departmental Committee on Energy and Kenya's migration and mobility partnership agreement with Germany which is before the Labour Committee.

KEY POINTS

- National Assembly resumes sittings on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 after the long recess.
- Annual National Prayer Breakfast scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2026 at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, and expected to be attended by President William Ruto.
- Budget and Appropriations Committee report on annual estimates scheduled for tabling on June 2nd, 2026
- House to prioritise consideration Senate amendments to the Division of Revenue Bill, 2026 and the County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2026 upon receipt from the Senate.

African Parliaments push for unified climate action and stronger methane reduction commitments



A section of Members drawn from the National Assembly and the Senate, join delegates drawn from various African Parliaments and stakeholders for a group photo during the opening ceremony for the Regional Seminar for African Parliaments on Climate Action and Methane Reduction on May 15, 2026

African Parliaments have committed to strengthening dialogue and cooperation among legislatures, governments and regional institutions to advance a unified position in global climate change and methane-related negotiations.

The commitment was made at the close of the two-day Regional Seminar for African Parliaments on Climate Action and Methane Reduction, where leaders underscored the urgent need for Africa's priorities to be fully reflected in international climate policies, financing frameworks and global environmental agreements.

Leaders emphasized that although African countries contribute the least to global greenhouse gas emissions, the continent continues to suffer disproportionately from the devastating effects of climate change, including floods, droughts, food insecurity and environmental degradation.

Presenting the outcome of the seminar, Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga (Tigania West) called for enhanced cooperation, knowledge-sharing and policy coordination among African nations to effectively address the growing threats posed by climate change and methane emissions.

"I must emphasize the importance of global inter-parliamentary cooperation and solidarity in addressing climate change and methane emissions, with a view to promoting knowledge exchange, strengthening policy frameworks, reducing emissions and mitigating impacts on the most vulnerable populations," said Hon. Mutunga.

Hon. Mutunga further urged developed nations to increase and sustain predictable climate financing to support adaptation and mitigation efforts in developing countries. He stressed the importance of fully implementing commitments agreed upon during the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29).

The Chairperson of the Caucus on Parliamentary Conservation and Climate Change, Hon. Charity Kathambi (Njoro), called on parliamentary representatives across Africa to urgently strengthen climate laws and accelerate action aimed at reducing methane emissions.

"Parliamentary representatives across Africa must urgently strengthen climate laws, reduce methane emissions, improve climate financing, promote technology transfer, and integrate climate action into national development plans to help achieve the Global Methane Challenge within the next four years," said Hon. Kathambi.

(Continued) from Page 1

ICPAK cited Ghana as a glaring contrast, where a 30 per cent tax rate kicks in only when a monthly income surpasses roughly Kshs.255,000.

To correct these imbalances, ICPAK recommended slashing the top PAYE rate from 35 per cent to 28 per cent matching the proposed corporate tax rate and vastly widening the brackets. They proposed a cleaner, more progressive framework of 10 percent, 15 per cent, 20 per cent, 25 per cent and 28 per cent respectively.

Additionally, the Institute called for a boost to the lowest tax threshold and personal monthly relief to cushion the lowest earners.

"Hon. Chair, we propose both the increase in the lowest tax band to Kshs. 30,000, and the expansion of the tax bands to ensure that the higher PAYE rates apply to higher income earners", the stated.

"We further recommend an increase in the personal relief from the current Kshs. 2,400 per month to Kshs. 3,000 per month", they added.

Adding their voice to the debate, the Kenya Bankers Association (KBA) held that the escalating statutory deductions are severely crippling the purchasing power of Kenyan workers. Presenting the banking sector's official memorandum, KBA noted that between January 2023 and early 2026, salaried Kenyans earning a gross income of Kshs. 100,000 have suffered an estimated 7.74 per cent drop in net take-home pay. They attributed this to the new statutory levies, including the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF), the Affordable Housing Levy (AHL), and heightened NSSF contributions.

They made a similar proposal arguing for a uniform 5 per cent reduction in PAYE across all brackets, effectively lowering the maximum tax rate from 35 per cent to 30 per cent. They further advocated for expanding the lower tax bands and elevating the monthly tax-free threshold to Kshs. 30,000. This position was reinforced by tax experts Ichiban, Alpha Tax and Business Advisory Services as well as Ernst & Young LLP when they appeared in consecutive sittings with the Committee.

Deloitte Kenya also pushed for a similar position, adding that the proposal was in tandem with the Medium- Term Revenue Strategy for FY 2024/25 - 2026/27, which proposed to review the structure of the PAYE bands to improve progressivity and harmonize the personal income tax top rate with the corporate income tax rate during the strategy period.

Reacting to the submissions, Committee Members led by the Chairperson, Hon. Kuria Kimani hinted that they would be moving amendments for the inclusion of the provision which is not in the Bill, adding that there is need to ensure that taxpayers meet their tax obligation in proportion to their respective abilities.

Hon. Kuria Kimani (Molo) informed the stakeholders that though the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury had undertaken that the government would consider reviewing the tax bands, a simulation had shown that the move would result to a revenue dip of Kshs. 35 billion. He pledged that the Committee would look into the proposal with particular emphasis on the net effect of increasing the disposable income through the review.

"The Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury had made the pledge to review tax bands especially for low income earners. After conducting a simulation, they got indications that the move to review the minimum taxable income to Kshs.30,000 from the current Kshs. 24,000 would result into a Kshs. 35 bn dip.

Why the High Court agreed with the National Assembly on enactment & necessity of NTSA regulations on graffiti and other operational issues of PSVs

The National Assembly last month helped save the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) Regulations on operation of public service vehicles; whose constitutionality was being contested at the High Court.

In a judgement delivered by Justice Bahati Mwamuye on 29th April 2026, the High Court ruled that the National Assembly had correctly enacted the said Regulations, and that no resolution annulling or varying the instrument was made within the statutory timeline, thereby allowing the Regulations to take full legal effect by operation of law.

The said Regulations relate to among other operation of PSVs, including the prohibitions on decorations like the urban popular graffiti paintings, that affect the safety of passengers and other road users.

The Regulations prohibit decorations that obscure safety features like windows, lights and chevrons were deemed rationally connected to the objective of protecting life enshrined in Article 26 of the Constitution.

The said Petition had been filed by Mr. Michael Makubo against the National Transport Safety Authority (NTSA), the National Assembly and four others.

The Petitioner's contention against the National Assembly was that the said Regulations had been enacted without meaningful public participation and that they had not been subjected to proper Parliamentary scrutiny.

The Court, however, ruled that the National Assembly had proved that the House had adhered to the requisite constitution the said Regulations, and that the proper legislative procedures had been followed.

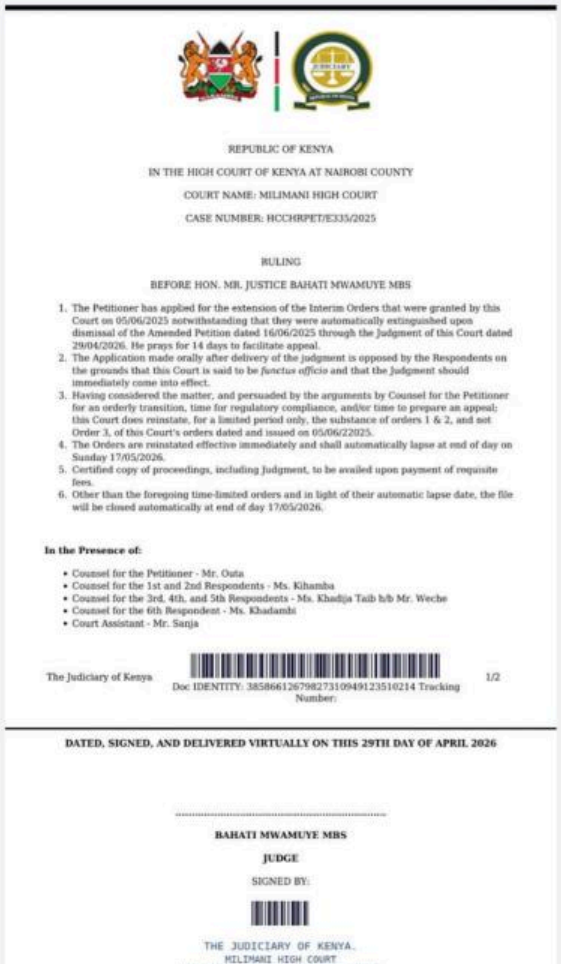
"There was uncontroverted evidence demonstrating that the Regulations were duly transmitted to the Clerk of the National Assembly on 14th March 2014, they were tabled before the House on 18th March 2014, and subsequently committed to the Committee on Delegated Legislation for consideration," ruled Justice Wamuye.

He added: "No resolution annulling or variation of the instrument was made within the statutory timeline, thereby allowing the Regulations to take full legal effect by operation of law. In the absence of any rebuttal evidence, the Court accepted this position as sufficiently established."

The Petitioner had also argued that a notice from the NTSA for the enforcement of the said Regulations dated 14th May, 2025 allegedly violated the freedom of artistic creativity and cultural rights enshrined in Articles 11 and 33 of the Constitution.

The Court in it's final verdict ruled that the matatu culture is a form of cultural expression, adding that the State's interest in road safety justifies reasonable limitations as is provided for under Article 24 of the Constitution.

"Prohibitions on decorations that obscure safety features like windows, lights and chevrons were deemed rationally connected to the objective of protecting life enshrined in Article 26 of the Constitution," ruled the Court.



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KENYA AT NAIROBI COUNTY

COURT NAME: MILIMANI HIGH COURT

CASE NUMBER: HCCHRPET/E335/2025

RULING

BEFORE HON. MR. JUSTICE BAHATI MWAMUYE MBS

1. The Petitioner has applied for the extension of the Interim Orders that were granted by this Court on 05/06/2025 notwithstanding that they were automatically extinguished upon dismissal of the Amended Petition dated 16/06/2025 through the Judgment of this Court dated 29/04/2026. He prays for 14 days to facilitate appeal.
2. The Application made orally after delivery of the judgment is opposed by the Respondents on the grounds that this Court is said to be *functus officio* and that the Judgment should immediately come into effect.
3. Having considered the matter, and persuaded by the arguments by Counsel for the Petitioner for an orderly transition, time for regulatory compliance, and/or time to prepare an appeal; this Court does reinstate, for a limited period only, the substance of orders 1 & 2, and not Order 3, of this Court's orders dated and issued on 05/06/22025.
4. The Orders are reinstated effective immediately and shall automatically lapse at end of day on Sunday 17/05/2026.
5. Certified copy of proceedings, including Judgment, to be availed upon payment of requisite fees.
6. Other than the foregoing time-limited orders and in light of their automatic lapse date, the file will be closed automatically at end of day 17/05/2026.

In the Presence of:

- Counsel for the Petitioner - Mr. Outa
- Counsel for the 1st and 2nd Respondents - Ms. Kihamba
- Counsel for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Respondents - Ms. Khadija Taib h/b Mr. Weche
- Counsel for the 6th Respondent - Ms. Khadambi
- Court Assistant - Mr. Sanja

The Judiciary of Kenya Doc IDENTITY: 385866126798273109491235102l4 Tracking Number: 1/2

DATED, SIGNED, AND DELIVERED VIRTUALLY ON THIS 29TH DAY OF APRIL 2026

BAHATI MWAMUYE MBS

JUDGE

SIGNED BY:

THE JUDICIARY OF KENYA.
MILIMANI HIGH COURT

tutional threshold in the enactment of

House moves to fast-track Division of Revenue Bill as Senate Amendments referred to Budget Committee



The National Assembly has referred the Senate amendments to the Division of Revenue Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 2 of 2026) to the Budget and Appropriations Committee for expedited consideration, in line with constitutional and procedural requirements governing money Bills.

This follows a communication from the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Moses Wetang'ula.

The Division of Revenue Bill, which was published in the Kenya Gazette Supplement No. 14 of 19th February 2026, provides for the equitable sharing of nationally raised revenue between the national and county governments, as required under Article 218 of the Constitution. The Bill was passed by the National Assembly on 10th March 2026 before being transmitted to the Senate in accordance with Article 110(4).

On 14th May 2026, the Senate passed the Bill with amendments and returned it to the National Assembly for reconsideration under Article 112 of the Constitution.

In his notification, the Speaker underscored the constitutional significance and urgency of the legislation, noting its central role in enabling the functioning of both levels of government and ensuring uninterrupted service delivery to citizens. The Bill has therefore been designated a priority measure, with strict timelines guiding its consideration.

Accordingly, the Schedule of Senate amendments now stands referred to the Budget and Appropriations Committee, which is expected to undertake an expedited review and submit its report upon the House's resumption.

The Speaker further directed that, upon resumption, the House Business Committee shall prioritize consideration of the Senate amendments to ensure compliance with statutory deadlines governing the budgetary process.

In addition, the Clerk of the National Assembly has been instructed to circulate the notification and the Schedule of amendments to all Members and facilitate committee engagement on the Bill without delay.

The Division of Revenue Bill remains a key instrument in the annual budget process, determining the financial framework within which both the national and county governments operate.

Embakasi West MP demands answers over Ardhi Sasa breakdown

A Member of Parliament has raised alarm over the prolonged breakdown of the government's Ardhi Sasa platform, saying the outage has paralysed land transactions and caused major financial losses to Kenyans and investors.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Embakasi West MP, Hon. Mark Mwenje sought a statement from the Departmental Committee on Lands regarding the disruption of services at the Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning.

The lawmaker said the Ardhi Sasa platform, which was introduced to digitise land administration and improve efficiency and transparency, had reportedly been down for the last two weeks.

According to the MP, the outage has halted critical land related services, including land searches, title registration, transfers, lease applications, cautions, charges and rent payments.

"As a result, citizens, investors, financial institutions, advocates and developers have been unable to process transfers, conduct official searches, register titles or complete transactions that depend on timely digitised approvals," Hon. Mwenje told the House.

He warned that the disruption had led to delayed payments, breached contracts, stalled development projects and uncertainty over ownership documentation.



Embakasi West MP Hon. Mark Mwenje

The MP also raised concerns over a prolonged shortage of ammonia paper, a critical material used in blue-line printing for survey maps, cadastral drawings, grid plans and site plans.

He said the shortage, which has reportedly persisted for nearly two months, had severely affected survey and mapping services, delaying subdivisions, adjudication processes, land registration and issuance of ownership documents.

"These failures have exposed serious gaps in planning, procurement and service delivery within the Ministry," he said.

Hon. Mwenje sought answers from the Lands Committee on the cause of the Ardhi Sasa system failure, the measures being taken to restore operations and plans to prevent future breakdowns.

He also called on the Committee to explain the reasons behind the ammonia paper shortage, provide an update on procurement efforts and indicate when normal survey and mapping services will resume.

Further, the MP called for immediate and long-term interventions to ensure uninterrupted land services and restore public confidence in land administration.

> **"These failures have exposed serious gaps in planning, procurement and service delivery within the Ministry," he said." Hon. Mwenje**

COMMITTEES' ROUND-UP

Defence Committee questions Wattanga over KRA exit and diplomatic readiness



Defence Committee Chairperson Hon. Nelson Koech asks a question during the vetting

The Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations Committee while conducting an approval hearing for Kenya's nominee for High Commissioner to Ottawa, Canada, Mr. Humphrey Wattanga on May 14, 2026, sharply questioned his request to postpone his approval hearing, his exit from the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), and his frequent career transitions.

Mr. Wattanga, who served as KRA Commissioner General from August 2023 to April 2026, had initially been scheduled to appear before the Committee on April 27, 2026. However, he wrote to Parliament requesting a postponement, citing an ongoing handover process at KRA, a move which Members found unprecendented.

The Committee also pressed him on speculation surrounding his departure from KRA, with Hon. Martha Wangari asking directly whether he had been fired before the end of his term.

"There have been claims that you were dismissed from KRA. Since your term had not ended, can you clarify the circumstances of your exit?" she asked.

Mr. Wattanga dismissed the claims, explaining that his contract allowed him to proceed on terminal leave before its expiry.

"My contract runs until August this year. There is a provision allowing an incumbent to proceed on terminal leave if the contract will not be renewed. I am currently on leave and have already been paid for that period," he said.

Committee Chairperson Hon. Nelson Koech further challenged Mr. Wattanga to outline his legacy at KRA, particularly in revenue collection.

Mr. Wattanga told the Committee that revenue performance had improved significantly under his tenure.

"For the nine months ending March 2026, KRA had already collected KSh. 2.04 trillion. The target for the financial year is KSh. 2.97 trillion, and we are on course to surpass KSh. 2.8 trillion. Revenue growth currently stands at 11.1 percent," he stated.

On the other hand, Hon. Caleb Amisi tasked the nominee to explain how he would help expand Kenya's exports to Canada and address the trade imbalance between the two countries.

Mr. Wattanga acknowledged that Kenya exports significantly less to Canada than it imports, attributing the gap to limited market penetration and inadequate positioning of Kenyan products.

"Canada exported about 160 million dollars' worth of goods to Kenya in 2025, while Kenya exported only 58 million dollars to Canada. This shows a significant trade deficit that requires a targeted and sector-specific strategy," he said.

He added that Kenya could increase earnings by exporting more value-added products instead of relying mainly on raw tea and coffee exports.

The nominee also identified technology, education and digital services as key areas for future collaboration between Kenya and Canada.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Wattanga defended his suitability for the diplomatic post, citing his international exposure, technical expertise and experience in public service.

The Committee chaired by Hon. Nelson Koech is expected to review the nominee's performance before tabling a report in the National Assembly recommending either his approval or rejection after the recess.

Committee on Regional Development pushes for increased funding as state department warns of deepening drought crisis



Regional Development Chairperson Hon. Peter Lochakapong during the meeting.

The State Department for Special Programmes has appealed to Parliament for an additional Ksh 19.3 billion to strengthen drought response and avert a worsening humanitarian crisis across the country.

Appearing before the Departmental Committee on Regional Development chaired by Hon. Peter Lochakapong (Sigor), Principal Secretary Ismail Maalim Madey said the department had been allocated only Ksh 162.8 million for emergency food relief in the 2026/27 financial year, an amount he termed inadequate amid rising drought-related emergencies.

Madey warned that continued underfunding could cripple relief operations and delay assistance to vulnerable communities. He revealed that the government had already spent Ksh 12.65 billion under Article 223 of the Constitution to support ongoing drought interventions. The Department also sought Ksh 14 billion for emergency relief and another Ksh 5 billion to operationalize the Strategic Food Reserve, which currently lacks funding despite its critical role in disaster response.

Lawmakers expressed concern over the situation, with several MPs backing the department's request. Committee chair Hon. Lochakapong also raised concerns over challenges affecting last-mile distribution of relief food to affected communities.

Kshs 11.02 billion needed to complete earmarked stadiums ahead of AFCON 2027, Sports Committee told



The Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports, Hon. Salim Mvurya (centre), alongside his two Principal Secretaries, Mr. Elijah Mwangi (left) and Mr. Jacobs Fikirini (right) when they appeared before the Committee



Webuye West MP, Hon. Dan Wanyama during the meeting with ministry officials to deliberate on the FY 2026/27 Budget Estimates

The Sports and Culture Committee has been informed that the country requires Kshs 11.02 billion from the Exchequer to complete earmarked stadiums ahead of the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in order to safeguard Kenya's hosting rights.

This is according to the Sport State Department Principal Secretary, Mr. Elijah Mwangi, who appeared before the Committee on the 2026/2027 Financial Year Budget Estimates.

The Committee chaired by Webuye West MP, Hon. Dan Wanyama heard that the total contractual cost of the stadium projects is Kshs.15.11 billion out of which only Kshs. 3.74 billion has been paid.

According to the PS, despite Sports, Arts and Social Development Fund (SASDF) having an approved budget of Kshs.18.38billion in the current FY 2025/26 its cash flows is significantly constrained due to major financial commitments.

"The financial commitments of SASDF include annual loan repayment of Kshs. 6.29 billion for Talanta Sports City, Kshs.6.0 billon for participation and hosting of sports events, Kshs.1.57 billion for Escrow Account Deposits, KSh.1.57 billion for Standby Letter of Credit (SBLC), Kshs.2.1 billion for establishment of Constituency Sports Academies and Kshs.1.4 billion for upgrade of Community Sports Grounds. Therefore, given the competing obligations, SASDF is constrained to meet the financing requirements for critical AFCON 2027 projects," PS Mwangi told the Committee.

Reacting to the presentation, Yatta MP, Hon. Robert Basil questioned why some of the earmarked stadiums were still far from completion a few months to the competition, saying, "I will make reference to the Kipchoge Keino Stadium which is at 18 percent completion and it has been earmarked to be one of the fields to be used during the games."

PS Mwangi, however, clarified that after review of the initial list the Kipchoge Keino Stadium is no longer part of the earmarked stadiums, further disclosing that that Raila Odinga and the Kasarani stadiums will be the two playing fields with Nyayo and Ulinzi stadiums being among the training fields.

Trade Committee probes delays, rising costs in KIRDI Project



Principal Secretary together with state department officials appearing before the Committee during consideration of the 2026/27 Financial Year Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure



Hon. Bernard Shinali chairs Committee session during a meeting with the State Department for Industry

The National Assembly Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Investment has raised concerns over delays and possible misuse of funds in the implementation of the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI) project in South B, Nairobi.

Lawmakers faulted the State Department for Industry over the stalled project, whose construction began in 2013 but remains incomplete more than a decade later despite billions of shillings already being spent.

Members of the Committee noted that the project has continued to receive budget allocations over the years and questioned why the facility is still not operational 13 years after construction started.

According to the latest project status report dated April 2023, the development was estimated to be 79.5 per cent complete after consuming more than Sh4 billion.

The original contract sum stood at about Sh4.36 billion but has since increased due to contract variations and litigation costs.

Appearing before the Committee, Principal Secretary in the State Department for Industry Dr Juma Mukhwana attributed the delays to funding challenges, which forced the initial contractor to terminate the contract before completion.

Dr Mukhwana told MPs that a new contractor had already been awarded the project and was ready to resume and complete the remaining works once funds are made available.

The PS informed the Committee that the pending works require an additional Sh2.6 billion for the project to be fully completed.

For the 2026/27 financial year, the project has been allocated Sh500 million, with the State Department appealing to the Committee for an additional Sh500 million in the next supplementary budget.

The ministry further said it plans to source the remaining Sh1.6 billion in the following financial year to complete the project.

According to the State Department, once completed, the ultra-modern complex will house ministry offices and agencies under the department, reducing reliance on rented office space in private buildings.

The facility is also expected to host modern laboratories to support research, technology development and innovation in the country's industrial sector.

However, legislators cautioned the State Department against diverting funds allocated to the project to other programmes without following procedures outlined in the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act.

Management (PPM) Act.

House Committee reviews environment and agriculture sector budgets amid funding gaps

The Budget and Appropriations Committee, chaired by Hon. Samuel Atandi, has commenced sector-by-sector scrutiny of the proposed Kshs 4.82 trillion 2026/27 national budget.

Committee Members met with the Chairpersons' for the Departmental Committees on Agriculture and Livestock, and Environment, Forestry and Mining.



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

Presenting findings on the environment docket, the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining, chaired by Hon. Vincent Musyoka, cautioned that underfunding was weakening key agencies responsible for environmental protection and climate change response.

"The Ministry generates revenue, but most levies go to the Consolidated Fund. We are engaging the ministry on viable options for enhanced revenue retention to strengthen the sector," said Musyoka.

Lawmakers noted that the State Department for Environment and Climate Change has been allocated Sh9.26 billion, with Sh5.02 billion earmarked for development programmes, including a Sh2.47 billion National Solid Waste Management initiative in partnership with Nairobi County. However, implementation has been slowed by delayed disbursements, with development releases at 58.3 per cent as of March 2026.

The Committee further flagged Kshs 841 million in pending bills, alongside critical staffing shortages, including a deficit of 700 officers at the Kenya Meteorological Service and 400 officers at the National Environment Management Authority, warning that enforcement and forecasting capacity was being compromised.

On forestry, MPs pushed for increased investment, citing untapped potential in carbon markets. "Forestry has the potential to generate significant revenue through carbon credits and create sustainable income streams for this country," said Joseph Lekuton.

The State Department for Forestry has been allocated Kshs 18.34 billion, though MPs expressed concern over a 20.6 per cent reduction in recurrent funding for the Kenya Forest Service. The sector is also grappling with Kshs 1.13 billion in pending bills, inadequate ranger housing, and deteriorating forest access infrastructure.

In the mining sector, legislators questioned safety oversight following recent mining accidents, while calling for stronger investment in mineral testing capacity and value addition infrastructure.

Legislators also questioned the lack of development funding for the National Mining Corporation (NAMICO), despite its mandate to manage strategic minerals such as lithium and rare earth elements.

The State Department for Mining has been allocated Kshs 2.55 billion, but lawmakers noted that the nearly completed Gemstone Value Addition Centre in Taita Taveta remains unfunded, limiting export potential and industrial growth.

Meanwhile, in a second meeting, the Agriculture and Livestock Committee, chaired by Hon. Dr. John Mutunga, called for increased allocations to a sector they described as the backbone of the economy.

"The agricultural sector remains the backbone of our economy, yet it receives only 3.9 per cent of the national budget, far below the 10 per cent commitment under the Malabo Declaration," Hon. Mutunga said.

On agriculture, allocations have risen to Kshs 67.37 billion, but MPs warned that flagship programmes, including the Kshs 18 billion fertiliser subsidy initiative, remain under pressure. The Committee also noted the underfunding of KALRO, pyrethrum revival programmes, tea reforms and innovation centres.

"We must ensure increased allocations translate into productivity, not just recurrent absorption," Hon. Atandi noted, as he questioned whether sufficient funding had been set aside to clear arrears owed to farmers and sugar sector workers.

The Budget Committee is expected to continue receiving submissions from other departmental committees before consolidating recommendations for the final budget report.

PIC Education raise alarm over unlicensed trainers in TVET Institutions

Legislators have raised concern over widespread non- compliance with trainer licensing requirements in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions following scrutiny of Auditor- General's reports for the 2021/2022 to 2024/2025 financial years.

The concerns were flagged by the Public Investments Committee on Education and Governance chaired by Hon. Dick Maungu (Luanda) during examination of audit reports on institutions including Butula Technical and Vocational College, Khwisero Technical and Vocational College.

Other institutions included, Webuye West Technical and Vocational College, Tindiret Technical and Vocational College, Tinderet Integrated Technical Trainers College and Koshin Technical Training Institute.

Audit findings revealed that several institutions were operating with unlicensed trainers, contrary to requirements set by the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA).

At Butula Technical and Vocational College, the Auditor-General's report for 2023/2024 showed that out of 33 trainers, only seven licenses were availed for verification.



Luanda MP Hon. CPA Dick Maungu, Interim Chairperson of the Public Investments Committee on Education and Governance, during the examination of audit reports on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institution

Lawmakers questioned the impact of the gap on training quality, with Kasipul MP and Vice-Chairperson Hon. Boyd Were seeking timelines for full compliance.

"I would like to know how long it will take for the rest to be licensed," he said.

Butula TVC Chief Principal Calistus Omilo said the situation was driven by evolving regulations, noting that licensed trainers had increased from seven to 14 out of 43.

He added that 12 more applications are being processed, while others are undergoing mandatory pedagogical training at the Kenya School of TVET.

Igembe Central MP Hon. Daniel Karitho questioned whether the situation reflects a shortage of qualified trainers.

Narok County MP Hon. Rebecca Tonkei said recruitment challenges stem from the fact that the Public Service Commission (PSC) handles hiring, often deploying technically qualified staff without teaching qualifications.

She called for structured collaboration between PSC and TVETA to ensure trainers undergo pedagogical training.

Luanda MP Hon. Dick Maungu, who chairs the Committee, acknowledged gaps in the legal framework, noting that PSC has in some cases deployed trainers without teaching qualifications. He said the proposed Trainers Service Council Bill would address recruitment, certification, and regulation gaps.

"There has been a lacuna in law where PSC employs trainers without ensuring pedagogical training. The proposed law will bring order to the sector," he said.

were availed for verification. from seven to 14 out of 45.

Housing PS defends budget as MPs query pending bills, donor funding



Housing, Urban Planning, and Public Works Committee Acting Chair, Hon. Rindikiri Mugambi and Hon. Joseph Cherorot during a meeting

Principal Secretary for Housing and Urban Development, Charles Hinga, has appealed to lawmakers for the approval of the Ministry's budget for the 2026/27 Financial Year.

Appearing before the Departmental Committee on Housing, Urban Planning, and Public Works, PS Hinga detailed a strategic shift as the Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) transitions from a heavy investment phase to a self-sustaining revenue cycle.

"Currently, Kshs. 737 billion is tied to ongoing projects, and through the housing levy which is a catalyst, we have been able to make great progress," PS Hinga stated, noting the responsibility to produce 200,000 units annually at an average cost of Kshs. 2 million per unit.

The PS emphasized that completed units are now beginning to generate their own revenue, with a target of raising Sh100 billion from house sales in the next financial year to be reinvested into the budget.

During the session, Committee Members raised concern over deductions to donor-funded projects, including the Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP II) and the Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project (KISIP II).

The PS and Committee Members expressed frustration over the deductions by the National Treasury when grants are received.

"When you get grant funding, why would it be deducted," noted Hon. Maurice Kakai pointing specifically to KUSP and KISIP programmes.

According to submissions, for FY 2026/27, donor-funded projects face rationalization, with KUSP II seeing a reduction of Ksh 500 million and the Kenya Informal Settlement Redevelopment Program (KISRP) slashed by Ksh 400 million.

On pending bills, as of December 2025, the State Department for Housing reported Ksh 1.98 billion in pending bills, while Public Works faces a Ksh 1.54 billion shortfall.

Members called for a meeting with the National Treasury to unlock these payments. "If the Ministry has the capacity to pay, they should be allowed to do so immediately to avoid litigation," Committee Acting Chair Hon. Rindikiri Mugambi observed.

Ends

Finance Bill 2026 referred to Committee as public participation begins

Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Moses Wetang'ula has formally referred the Finance Bill, 2026 to the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning, setting the stage for nationwide public participation on the government's proposed tax and revenue measures.

In a communication to Members of the National Assembly and the public, Speaker Wetang'ula dated 8th May 2026 said the Bill had been classified as a priority measure due to strict statutory timelines tied to the national budget-making process and the need for extensive public engagement before debate in the House.

The Finance Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 26 of 2026), published on May 5, 2026, contains the government's revenue-raising proposals for the 2026/2027 financial year and is expected to spark intense public and parliamentary scrutiny in the coming weeks.

"Appreciating the central role of a Finance Bill in setting out revenue-raising measures for the national government, the Bill has been determined to be of priority," the Speaker stated in the notification.

The referral now hands the Finance and National Planning Committee the task of examining the Bill clause by clause, receiving submissions from stakeholders, and preparing a report for tabling in the House.

The Committee is expected to invite views from Kenyans, businesses, professional bodies and civil society organisations as the National Assembly begins one of its most consequential legislative processes tied to taxation and the cost of living.

Under parliamentary procedure, the Bill will subsequently be read for the First Time when the House next sits before proceeding to further stages of consideration.

> **"Appreciating the central role of a Finance Bill in setting out revenue-raising measures for the national government, the Bill has been determined to be of priority," the Speaker stated in the notification**

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
13TH PARLIAMENT - FIFTH SESSION - 2026

'ARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND NATIONAL PLANNING

3LIC PARTICIPATION ON THE FINANCE BILL (NATIONAL ASSEMB
BILL NO.26 OF 2026)

SCAN THE QR CODE TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS:
(CLAUSE BY CLAUSE ON THE BILL)

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



"Each one of us has been affected by cancer in one way or another. If it is not a family member, it is a friend, a colleague, or a constituent, especially for us as elected leaders. We have all taken part in numerous harambees to help patients meet medical bills, which are often very high. It is worrying to see bills rise to Ksh10 million or Ksh15 million for just a two-week stay. As a country, we must take deliberate action to ease the financial burden and improve treatment for cancer patients, giving them comfort and hope during a difficult time."

- Hon. Eve Obara (Kabondo Kasipul)



Kenyans are concerned about the high cost of electricity despite most of the power being generated locally. The country relies heavily on geothermal energy, which should provide affordable electricity to consumers. However, power tariffs remain high, placing a heavy burden on households and businesses. Ordinarily, kerosene is considered cheaper, yet electricity supplied by KenGen is still expensive for many citizens. Kenyans deserve a clear explanation on why they are not benefiting from affordable electricity despite the huge investments made in power generation and transmission infrastructure over the years. The high cost of power continues to affect the cost of living and economic growth."

-Hon. Tom Odege (Nyatike)



We need to revisit the issue of the time learners report to school. It is unfair for children to walk in darkness very early in the morning, sometimes as early as 5.00 a.m. Personally, when I travel to Nairobi on a Monday, I wake up at around 4.30 a.m. and begin my journey. By 5.00 a.m., I see children on the road going to school, including very young learners who are unaccompanied. One can only imagine the dangers they may face in the darkness. What we need is a clear policy requiring schools to begin operations at an appropriate time to ensure the safety of all children, especially girls."

-Hon. Dorothy Muthoni (Nominated)



Providing public awareness on sexual offences will help build a safer and responsible society. People will better understand conduct and the legal boundaries surrounding sexual offences. Public education will reduce cases of abuse by informing citizens about their rights and the law. Vulnerable groups, including children, persons with disabilities, and marginalised communities, are most affected because they often lack a voice. Awareness programmes will empower them and equip guardians with knowledge to identify, prevent, and report abuse. Many offences remain unreported due to fear, stigma, and ignorance, but education will improve reporting, protection, and systems"

- Hon. David Ndakwa (Malava)



"Young girls in schools are particularly affected by rape. Many victims fear reporting these incidents, while others may not know where to report them. Therefore, we must ensure that advocacy campaigns reach everyone, especially in schools. It is important that during school assemblies or lessons, teachers take at least two minutes to discuss issues such as rape and defilement in Kenya. They should inform students about where victims can seek help and how such cases can be reported. This will create awareness, encourage reporting, and ensure that affected students receive the support and protection they need "

-Hon. Jerusha Momanyi (Nyamira County)



The teachers of this country deserve respect because we are who we are today through their guidance and dedication. Teaching has always been described as a noble profession, but nobility alone does not guarantee respect and dignity. Proper laws and policies are needed to protect teachers and uphold their welfare, honour and professional responsibility. I wish all teachers in this country the very best as they continue shaping future generations. As Members of Parliament, we must work towards improving the teaching profession and making it more rewarding, instead of merely describing it as a calling"

-Hon. Owen Baya (Kilifi North)



I wish to raise concern about a growing crisis that appears widespread, yet I do not clearly see the efforts of NACADA. Their presence is mostly noticed during budget discussions, where they often cite inadequate funding as the main challenge. In my area, a drug known as karambela, sold at about Ksh 20, has badly affected the community. Even school children, some as young as eleven years, are consuming it. Even with security interventions, including deployment of officers, the situation remains unchanged. This is a serious national crisis that requires urgent coordinated action from all stakeholders immediately."

- Hon. Ruweida Mohamed (Lamu East)



It is important to ensure that teachers receive the promotions they deserve. The schemes of service Clearly states how long one should act before confirmation. If a teacher performs well in an acting position for six months, the promotion process should be automatic. There should be no unnecessary delays. Many teachers continue to demonstrate excellent performance, which is reflected in good examination results. However, the Teachers Service Commission must pay closer attention to their welfare and professionalism. Teachers who work hard and deliver quality results deserve recognition, fair treatment, and timely promotions. Supporting teachers will strengthen the education sector and improve learning outcomes nationwide."

-Hon. Adipo Okuome (Karachuonyo)



As a representative of the people, I speak with parents and relatives of children from my county who have been defiled. It is not right to sit in the village with police and discuss bribing parents on behalf of young children who do not understand what is happening in their lives. Better to remove from the law provisions that allow such negotiations, such as suggesting that victims be given cattle or money, or that the perpetrator marries the defiled girl as a solution. There is no solution in this. Everyone must know that defilement is a crime and the law provides long imprisonment for offenders"

-Hon. Liza Chelule (Nakuru County)



It is unfortunate that county revenue collection practices and levies imposed on small traders are highly punitive. In many markets, women traders selling bananas, vegetables and other basic goods are forced to pay high taxes despite earning very little income. It is unfair for a woman selling bananas worth Kshs.100 to be charged Kshs.30 in levies. In some cases, county officials confiscate the same produce, yet traders are not informed where it is taken. Such actions continue to burden low-income earners who are only trying to support their families and sustain their small businesses through honest daily trade"

-Hon. Majimbo Kalasinga (Kabuchai)

CLIQUE & CLICKS



Members of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, Hon. Christopher Aseka and Hon. Ruth Odinga during a recent meeting of the Budget and Appropriations Committees.



Budget and Appropriations Committee Chair, Hon. Samuel Atandi chats with Agriculture and Livestock Committee Chair, Hon. Dr. John Mutunga on the sidelines of a meeting of the Budget and Appropriations Committee



Finance and National Planning Committee Chair, Hon. Kuria Kimani displays a QR code through which Members of the public have an opportunity to submit their views on the 2026, Finance Bill through a dedicated portal that can be accessed by scanning the code provided

BUNGE MASHINANI

ALDAI CONSTITUENCY

Aldai MP, Hon. Marianne Kitany opens new school laboratory

Marianne Kitany joined teachers, Board members, parents, and residents of Koyo Ndurio Ward in celebrating the commissioning of a new twin science laboratory at Keburo Senior School. The modern facility is set to enhance practical learning in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics by providing students with improved and well-equipped laboratory space.

The project has been widely welcomed by teachers, students, and community members as a major boost to education in the region. It is expected to improve academic performance, strengthen science learning, and open up better opportunities for learners pursuing science-related careers in the future.



Picture of the new Keburo school twin science Laboratory

NYAMITA CONSTITUENCY



Youths during the launch of the Training for creatives Programme

Uriri MP, Hon. Mark Nyamita launches training programme for Creatives in Rapogi

Hon. Mark Nyamita has officially launched the Training for Creatives programme at Rapogi Digital Studio, bringing together young people engaged in film, music, theatre, content creation, and digital storytelling.

The initiative is designed to equip participants with practical skills and create pathways for growth within the creative industry, with a focus on enhancing employability and enterprise development in the sector.

The programme underscores efforts to nurture youth talent, innovation, and entrepreneurship through the arts and digital media space.

BUSIA COUNTY

Hon. Omanyo launches water project at Kochek primary

Busia County MP Hon. Catherine Omanyo continues to support community empowerment initiatives across Nambale and Teso South constituencies through the issuance of grants to self-help groups aimed at boosting small businesses and improving livelihoods.

The programme is expected to strengthen economic growth at the grassroots and support families through sustainable income-generating activities.

Hon Omanyo launched a newly drilled water project at Kochek Primary School to serve both learners and the neighbouring community. Access to clean water is expected to improve concentration among pupils and help reduce child labour by easing the burden on children who often travel long distances in search of water.



Hon Omanyo taking a photo with Self Help Group women

DAGORETTI SOUTH CONSTITUENCY



Dagoreti South MP Hon John Kiarie joins students of Satellite secondary school

Dagoretti South MP Invests in Arts, ICT and Innovation in Schools

Hon. John Kiarie has continued to invest in arts, ICT and innovation programmes in schools to help students develop their talents alongside academics.

Satellite Secondary School is one of the institutions that has benefited from the initiative, which aims to identify and nurture students' talents as they continue

The MP recently visited the school to assess the progress of the programmes and discuss areas that can be improved for the benefit of the students.

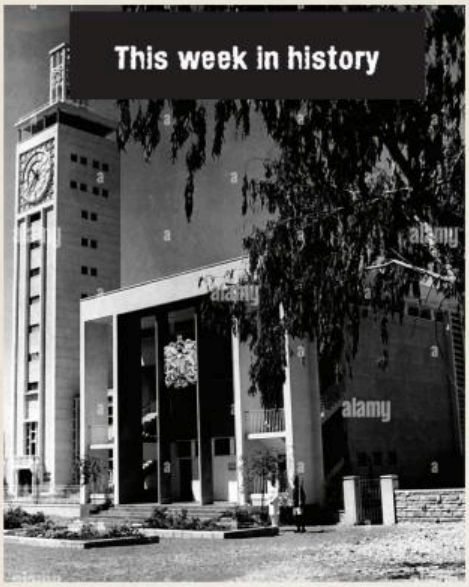
"Apart from supporting the education of our children, I have decided to invest in nurturing their talents too. I have reached where I am because of my talent," he said.

who performed a religious song during his visit to the school recently

with their studies.

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Parliament debates rules for Kenya's first multiparty elections



Following the repeal of Section 2A of the Constitution in December 1991, Kenya officially transitioned from a one-party state under the Kenya African National Union (KANU) to a multiparty democracy. The constitutional change triggered intense parliamentary debate in 1992 as lawmakers sought to align electoral laws, parliamentary procedures, and Standing Orders with the new political reality.

On 14 May 1992, Parliament tabled motions and held discussions on restructuring rules governing the forthcoming General Election to accommodate multiple political parties. Members of Parliament debated nomination procedures, party representation, campaign regulations, parliamentary conduct, and the role of the Electoral Commission in ensuring credible elections.

Lawmakers also considered amendments to presidential and parliamentary election laws to provide equal opportunities for newly registered opposition parties, including FORD and the Democratic Party.

The debate reflected both optimism and concern. Reform supporters argued that Kenya needed democratic systems that promoted political pluralism, freedom of association, and competitive elections after years of centralized rule. Others, particularly within KANU, warned that rapid liberalization could threaten national unity and fuel political divisions.

The 1992 deliberations laid the institutional foundation for Kenya's first multiparty General Election since independence, marking a major turning point in the country's democratic evolution.

Hon. Maingi raises alarm over plight of rice farmers in Mwea

Hon. Mary Maingi (Mwea) has raised concern over what she termed as the Government's reluctance to support local rice farmers by purchasing their produce.

The legislator said farmers in Mwea are currently holding more than 30,000 bags of locally produced rice that the Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC) has allegedly declined to buy.

In a request for a statement directed to the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, Hon. Maingi questioned why the Government was importing rice instead of purchasing available local stock.

"Instead of supporting local farmers, KNTC is reported to have imported approximately 250,000 metric tonnes of rice from foreign countries," she said.

The MP further alleged that some imported rice is being repackaged by unscrupulous traders and sold in the local market under the false label of Mwea Pishori rice.

According to Hon. Maingi, the practice has led to a sharp drop in local rice prices, leaving large quantities of rice unsold and exposing farmers to possible post-harvest losses.



Mwea MP Hon. Mary Maingi during a meeting of the Health Committee. She wants the government to urgently address the plight of rice farmers.

She also claimed that the Government has not paid farmers for about 2,000 bags of Mwea Pishori rice already delivered to KNTC.

"The delay in payment undermines trust in Government, threatens the sustainability of rice farming in Mwea and risks the livelihoods of rice farmers," she said.

The legislator called for urgent action to protect the integrity of Mwea Pishori rice, ensure fair trade practices and safeguard local farmers from exploitation.

In her statement request, Hon. Maingi asked the committee to explain the reasons behind the Government's decision to import rice despite sufficient local stocks. She also sought clarification on measures being taken to stop counterfeit imported rice from being sold in supermarkets as Mwea Pishori.

At the same time, she asked the committee to state the steps being taken to ensure KNTC purchases the rice currently held by farmers in Mwea and settles pending payments for stocks already delivered, including the timelines for the payments.

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TEAM LEADER:
Joe Okong'o

EDITORIAL TEAM:
Noelle Chelagat, Deborah Mupusi, Jane Goin, Peter Atsiaya, Calvin Karung'o, Edith Chepng'eno, Hillary Mageka, Daniel Psirmoi

CONTRIBUTORS:
James Macharia, Fridah Ngari Ambrose Munywoki, Mercy Mayende, Wilson Murimi, Brian Ojamaa, Joshua Caleb

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