BUNGE Weekly

Issue No. 147

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

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Monday, July 20th, 2026 to Monday, July 27th, 2026

Education Committee seeks lasting solutions to higher education funding challenges



A light moment between the Vice Chairperson of the Education Committee, Hon. Eve Obara, Hon. Rebecca Tonkei and the Ag. CEO of the Universities Fund, Dr. Edwin Wanyonyi after the meeting

Supreme Court dismisses Appeal against National Assembly, KRA over a 2007 agreement-related Tax Exemption

The Supreme Court has dismissed an Appeal filed against the National Assembly, the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and others over a taxation waiver emanating from a Kenya-Japan financing agreements dating back to 2007.

The said agreements exempted Japanese companies, consultants, and employees engaged in key development and infrastructural projects from provisions of the Income Tax Act.

Some of the projects cited in the agreement included Improvement of the Power Distribution System in and around Nakuru and Mombasa Cities, the Special Economic Zone near Dongo Kundu Area, Olkaria I Unit 4 Geothermal Power Project and the Mwea Irrigation Development Project among others.

The exemptions were operationalized through Legal Notice No. 15 of 2021 dated February, 25, 2021 and published on February 26, 2021 by the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning at the time.

Consequently, the Petitioner; Mr. Eliud Karanja Matindi moved to the High Court in 2021 challenging the Legal Notice on multiple grounds.



PLENARY

MPs pledge legislative action to unlock climate finance in Green Investment Dialogue in Kisumu



Changamwe lawmaker Hon. Omar Mwinyi shares perspectives during the Parliamentary Climate Forum

Lawmakers who participated in the just concluded Kenya Parliamentary Green Investment Dialogue in Kisumu County have made a resolute pledge to institute robust legislative frameworks to help unlock billions in climate financing.

The high-level dialogue which took place between 8th-11th July, brought together lawmakers, senior government officials, policy advisors, and private sector leaders to establish a clear pipeline from policy to climate action.

Central to the discussions was an urgent recognition that while Kenya boasts one of the cleanest electricity mixes in the world—with renewables supplying 92% of the country's power—the deployment of localized, bankable clean energy systems remains small, risky, and fragmented.

Throughout the dialogue, the participants trained their focus on structural hurdles stalling the country's green transition.

Private sector expressed concerns over the continued delay in passing vital statutory instruments, such as the draft Energy (Minigrid) Regulations which have remained stagnant since 2021.

Lawmakers however pledged to fast-track these regulations to secure the business landscape and mitigate risks for institutional investors.

Further, the forum dedicated a deep analysis to the clean cooking crisis and the electric mobility sector. While Kenya targets universal clean cooking access by 2028, a massive medium-term funding gap of USD 455 million persists.

MPs enthusiastically welcomed a newly presented Programme for Accelerating Clean Cooking Transition in Kenya, championed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Climate Parliament.

"It is important that the experts explain to us the impact of all schools in Kenya transitioning into clean cooking, and how as legislators we can participate in this initiative", noted Kabondo Kasipul MP, Dr. Eve Obara.

During the session, lawmakers learned that under existing bilateral frameworks, such as the Switzerland-Kenya Article 6.2 accord, a pipeline of just nine pilot projects is projected to yield 7.49 million internationally transferable carbon credits (ITMOs), leveraging USD 750 million in private-sector investment.

However, regulatory bottlenecks,he have created uncertainty that led some international financiers to pull out of Kenya.

To reverse this trend and aggressively drive green industrialization, lawmakers collectively resolved to carry out immediate legislative interventions. These include Intervention to establish clear pre-implementation procedures for Letters of Authorization (LoA) to instantly unlock private capital.

They also undertook to review regulatory frameworks by mandating a comprehensive legislative impact assessment of the Climate Change Amendment Act 2023 and the Carbon Markets Regulations 2024 to re-establish investor confidence and fast-track the project approval whitelist.

The MPs also acceded to the call to formulate laws that formally integrate carbon compliance fees, specifically maximizing the untapped USD 4-5 billion global aviation CORSIA market, into national climate adaptation funds.

They also undertook to champion the wider legislative deployment of the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC) "Shilling-for-a-Shilling" Matching Fund, encouraging MPs to pool constituency resources to build modular Green Energy Constituencies.

Speaking at the closing session of the Dialogue, Gem MP Hon. Elisha Odhiambo, highlighted the pivotal role that Parliament plays in creating a reliable and legally sound ecosystem for clean energy developers.

"Parliament does not finance green projects directly, but we hold the key to the policy framework that shapes investor confidence. For too long, brilliant renewable energy concepts and minigrid innovations in Kenya have stalled in the pilot phase due to regulatory bottlenecks and ambiguous bureaucratic delays", he noted

On behalf of the lawmakers present, he made a commitment that Parliamentarians would do whatever is necessary to eliminate institutional roadblocks.

"Our commitment coming out of this Dialogue in Kisumu is to sweep away these institutional roadblocks. We will enforce joint, transparent oversight, fast-track the long-overdue Minigrid Regulations, and streamline our carbon market legislation", he pledged .

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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF KENYA

(Coram: Mwilu, DCJ & VP, Wanjala, Njoki, Lenaola & Ouko, SCJJ)

PETITION NO. E006 OF 2025

-BETWEEN-

ELIUD KARANJA MATINDI.....APPELLANT

-AND-

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.....1ST RESPONDENT

THE SPEAKER, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.....2ND RESPONDENT

THE CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL TREASURY & PLANNING.....3RD RESPONDENT

COMMISSIONER GENERAL KENYA REVENUE AUTHORITY.....4TH RESPONDENT

THE HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL.....5TH RESPONDENT

(Being an appeal from the Judgment and Decree of the Court of Appeal at Nairobi (Musinga (P), Lesiit & Achode, JJ.A.) dated 30th December 2024 in Civil Appeal No. E506 of 2023, as consolidated with Civil Appeal No. E330 of 2023)

Representation:

Mr. Eliud Karanja Matindi, the Appellant
(Acting in person)

Mr. Andrew Emaase for the 1st Respondent

He contended that the grant of the tax exemption had contravened Article 210(1) of the Constitution, which stipulates that no tax or licensing fee may be imposed, waived, or varied except as provided by legislation.

It was also his position that the National Assembly contravened the Constitution, the Statutory Instruments Act, and the Income Tax Act by granting and approving the tax exemption through the impugned Legal Notice, which was not a legislation.

The High Court dismissed the said Petition, as well as a subsequent appeal before the Appellate Court prompting the current appeal before the Supreme Court.

In its Judgement; a Five Judge Supreme Court Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu, Lady Justice Njoki Ndugu and Justices Isaac Lenaola and William Ouko dismissed the appeal indicating that the process leading up to the publication and implementation of Legal Notice was in compliance with the Law including the former Kenyan Constitution which was in place at the time of signing of the Kenya-Japan financing agreement.

"The agreements herein were entered into before the current Constitution and covered the period from 2007 to 2020. The former Constitution was silent on the process of treaty ratification but conferred executive powers on the President to do so," ruled the Judges.

They added: "There was no law that required parliamentary approval as a prerequisite for treaty ratification, and constitutional checks and balances operated through Parliament's role in passing legislation to give effect to treaties."

The Petitioner had also asked the Court to quash the said legal notice on grounds that the tax exemption was discriminatory to other investors - an issue the Court ruled had not been specifically pleaded as a prayer for consideration.

"Emoluments payable from foreign sources in respect of duties performed in Kenya under a technical assistance or other development services agreement are a tax that can be exempted; the appellant, on this issue, did not prove his case on the balance of probabilities, ruled the Judges.

The other respondents was the Speaker of the National Assembly, the KRA Commissioner General and the Office of the Attorney General.

Bill seeking to streamline the tourism sector introduced in the House



The sponsor of the Bill and Leader of Majority Party, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah during a past sitting

The Tourism (Amendment) Bill, National Assembly Bill No. 41 of 2026, which seeks to streamline the management of the tourism sector has been introduced in the National Assembly

The proposed law which is aimed at enhancing efficiency, accountability and service delivery, underwent the First Reading on the 2nd of July 2026.

The Bill seeks to amend the Tourism Act, Cap. 381 by re-organising the functions of institutions within the tourism sector and strengthening the role of the Kenya Tourism Board in research, marketing and tourism development.

The proposed legislation further seeks to transfer key functions currently undertaken by the Tourism Research Institute to the Kenya Tourism Board, including the conduct of research, market intelligence, collection and analysis of tourism data, and dissemination of annual tourism statistics and research findings.

If enacted, the proposed Bill will enhance the mandate of the Kenya Tourism Board by empowering it to foster learning and exchange of views on tourism research and marketing and undertake any ancillary functions necessary to achieve its objectives.

To streamline institutional arrangements, the Bill proposes to repeal provisions establishing the Tourism Research Institute and transfer its assets, liabilities, rights and obligations to the Kenya Tourism Board. Pending legal proceedings, licenses and approvals issued under the Institute would continue under the Board to ensure a smooth transition.

The amendments also seek to repeal provisions establishing the Tourism Finance Corporation and transfer its assets, liabilities, rights and obligations to the Kenya Tourism Board, while employees of the affected institutions would be deployed to the Public Service Commission under the transitional arrangements.

The Bill further proposes to restructure the Tourism Fund by expanding its objects and purpose to support tourism product development, destination marketing and branding, tourism safety and security initiatives, data collection and analysis, crisis management, training and capacity development, innovation, and co-financing of tourism projects with county governments and development partners.

(Continued) from Page 1

The National Assembly Departmental Committee on Education has called for urgent interventions to address funding challenges facing the higher education sector, with Members proposing a joint engagement involving the National Treasury, the Ministry of Education and Parliament to streamline the implementation of the Higher Education Funding Model.

The Committee, led by Vice Chairperson Hon. Eve Obara (Kabondo Kasipul), met separately with officials from the State Department for Higher Education, the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) and the Universities Fund to review the FY 2025/2026 Budget Implementation Status.

PS for Higher Education Dr. Beatrice Inyangala informed Members that while the Higher Education Funding Model is operational, its implementation continues to face challenges, particularly in aligning budget allocations with the model.

Members noted that the disconnect between the funding model and budgetary allocations has affected effective financing of universities and resolved that the Committee convene a meeting bringing together all the stakeholders to harmonize the funding framework and ensure the model delivers its intended objectives.



Hon. Nabii Nabwera (Lugari), Hon. Christine Ombaka (Siaya) and Hon. Mary Emaase (Teso South) in discussion during a Committee meeting

the rising pending Bills owed by public universities. Dr. Inyangala explained that the challenge is largely historical, with institutions making efforts to clear the obligations despite the accumulation of interest over the years.

According to the State Department, public universities had accumulated pending Bills amounting to KES.100.3 billion as at January 2026..

During a separate session with HELB, criteria, particularly in periods of constrained funding. They tasked the board to explain how it determines which students receive loans when the available resources are insufficient to support all eligible applicants.

Members emphasized the need for fairness, transparency and predictability in the allocation process to ensure deserving students are not disadvantaged.

The Committee also sought clarification on Members questioned the Board's loan allocation

COMMITTEES' ROUND-UP

KRA defends raw sugar clearance as Committee questions tax waivers and missing import details



Commissioner for Customs and Border Control, Dr. Lilian Nyawanda (Left) accompanied by aother officer from KRA appears before the Committee



Hon. Bernard Shinali, Chairperson of Trade Committee chairing Committee session

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has defended its decision to clear a consignment of imported raw sugar brought into the country by Mombasa Sugar Refinery Limited (MSRL), insisting that the importer complied with all customs and regulatory requirements.

Appearing before the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives that is chaired by Hon. Bernard Shinali (Ikolomani) KRA officials told MPs that the importer submitted all the required importation documents and that the consignment was released only after customs officials were satisfied that the applicable procedures had been followed.

The KRA delegation was responding to concerns raised by the Committee over the safety of the imported sugar and the circumstances under which the importer was granted several tax exemptions.

The importer , according to KRA paid an estimated KSh500 million in import duty but benefited from exemptions on Excise Duty, Value Added Tax (VAT), Import Declaration Fee, Railway Development Levy, Sugar Development Levy and Merchant Shipping Levy.

The authority disclosed that had the importer paid all the applicable taxes and levies, the government would have collected approximately KSh2.98 billion as revenue.

The Committee led by Hon. Shinali, questioned the justification for the extensive tax waivers and sought clarification on whether the exemptions were granted in accordance with the law.

"The circumstances under which the sugar consignment was cleared are of critical concern. The huge tax losses in the form of tax waivers are equally a concern, and this Committee must get answers to all concerns raised," said Hon. Shinali.

During the session, Committee members also raised concerns over missing information in the importation documents. KRA officials were unable to provide documentation indicating the manufacturer of the sugar, while key details such as the date of manufacture and expiry date were also missing.

The lawmakers said the absence of such information raised serious questions about the traceability and safety of the imported sugar.

PAC to engage Public Service Commission over irregular recruitment



PAC Chairperson Hon. Tindi Mwale during the meeting with Diaspora Affairs State Department officials



PAC members Hon. Victor Koech (Chepalungu) and Hon. (Dr.) Wilberforce Oundo (Funyula) sharing a word during the meeting with Diaspora Affairs State Department officials

The Public Accounts Committee has resolved to meet the leadership of the Public Service Commission (PSC) over irregular recruitment in government entities.

The decision was made by the Committee, chaired by Hon. Tindi Mwale (Butere), while examining the Auditor-General's reports for the 2023/2024 financial year on the State Departments for Diaspora Affairs and Forestry.

During separate sessions with Principal Secretaries Ms. Roseline Njogu (Diaspora Affairs) and Mr. Gitonga Mugambi (Forestry), the Committee established that both Departments had staffing irregularities.

State Department for Diaspora Affairs declared 16 vacancies for Foreign Service Officers III, but PSC appointed 22 officers. The report also indicates that 28 Foreign Service Cadets were recruited in excess of the approved staff establishment.

Members questioned Ms. Njogu on why the department accepted the additional officers despite lacking a budgetary allocation and sought an explanation for not rejecting the excess recruitment.

For the State Department for Forestry, the Auditor-General reported that the department had 82 administrative support staff against an approved establishment of 45, while only 11 technestablishment of 86, leaving a shortfall of 75 officers.

Ms. Njogu told the Committee that recruitment is undertaken by PSC, while Mr. Mugambi said the department is working with the Commission to redeploy excess staff and fill critical vacancies.

Hon. Mwale said the Committee will also engage the PSC and the State Department for Public Service to establish the circumstances surrounding the recruitment irregularities.

"This is a matter of grave concern to this watchdog Committee, and we want to get to the bottom of it. Kenyans must get value for their

The Auditor-General's report shows that the nical officers were in post against an approved money," said Hon. Mwale.

House raises alarm as invasive Dodder Weed threatens crops across Kenya



Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, Hon. (Dr.) John Mutunga speaking during an engagement

The National Assembly has directed the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development to provide a more comprehensive response on the spread of the destructive dodder weed after MPs rejected the Government's explanation as inadequate, citing the absence of a dedicated budget to combat the invasive plant.

The debate followed a Statement sought by Hon. Irene Mayaka (Nominated MP) on the growing threat posed by the parasitic weed, which has spread across several counties, devastating tea, avocado, banana, maize and sugarcane farms while threatening biodiversity and food security.

Responding on behalf of the Ministry, Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, Hon. (Dr.) John Mutunga, said the Government had established a multi-disciplinary technical Committee to tackle invasive pests and weeds.

He explained that the state had developed management strategies through agencies including the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) and the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI). However, he acknowledged that no specific budget had been allocated for nationwide mapping, research or control of the weed.

Hon. Mayaka rejected the response from the Ministry. She noted that the weed has spread across at least 17 counties, destroying key cash crops such as tea and avocados.

"How can the Ministry say that they have not allocated any budget towards control and prevention of this particular weed? Some of these counties are the food basket of this country," she said.

Hon. Dorice Donya (Kisii County) also dismissed the Ministry's response, arguing that continued research without funding offered little hope to affected farmers.

Hon. Fatuma Mohammed (Migori County) questioned the usefulness of the technical Committee if it lacked resources to implement interventions on the ground.

In response, Dr. Mutunga acknowledged that the Ministry's report contained contradictions, particularly the existence of an active technical Committee despite the absence of a budget for its work.

> "The Government had established a multi-disciplinary technical Committee to tackle invasive pests and weeds", Dr. Mutunga assured

House Transport Committee warns KeNHA against awarding multiple road contracts to similar firms, as lawmakers inspect Mamboleo – Muhoroni and Chavakali – Kapsabet roads

The Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure has urged the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) to support the government in completing ongoing road projects by avoiding the award of multiple contracts to a single firm.

Led by Vice Chairperson Hon. Didmus Barasa, the Committee made the observation during an inspection tour of the Kisumu-Mamboleo-Miwani-Chemilil-Muhoroni road and the Chavakali – Kapsabet – Eldoret road. Members observed that many contractors are struggling to complete road projects nationwide due to the financial strain of holding multiple contracts.

However, the lawmakers urged the State Department for Roads, under the Ministry of Roads and Transport, to ensure timely release of appropriated funds to KeNHA to help contractors accelerate work.

"We can see some great progress on the Mamboleo – Muhoroni road, however you need to be identifying good contractors with liquidity, capacity to do work and this is because Government cash flow is slow, and again once you give such contractors work of this magnitude, a fifteen billion project, don't give them another work until they finish what they have", said Hon. Didmus Barasa.

Committee Member Hon. Samuel Arama warned that delays are likely if contractors are allowed to take on multiple projects. "Assigning many projects to one contractor will strain them, especially when they're already struggling to raise funds while waiting for the exchequer to release allocations. This is an issue only KeNHA can fix, since you award and supervise these projects," he said.



Transport Committee Vice Chairperson Hon. Didmus Barasa leads other Members on inspection of the Mamboleo - Muhoroni road

The Committee however was impressed with the ongoing reconstruction works of the two roads saying it will greatly open up business and easy movement of people in Kisumu, Nandi and Kericho Counties. They also noted that if completed, the Mamboleo interchange will ease traffic for motorists heading to Vihiga, Kakamega and Bungoma Counties.

A team from KeNHA led by a representative of the PS for Roads Eng. Henry Gakuru and the Director for maintenance Eng. Fukwo Wafula told the Committee that the project was given to three different contractors who are on site currently doing 28% of the works. They expect to complete the road in January 2028 according to a revised schedule that came with challenges of pending bills, slow funding and weather issues.

Regional Integration Committee appraised on the plan by Government to issue 3 Million new ID cards to deserving Kenyans by December this year



PS Belio Kipsang (Right) while responding to Committee concerns Looking on (Right) is an officer from his docket who accompanied him to the meeting



Committee Chairperson Hon. Irene Mayaka (Right) with her Vice Chairperson Hon. Farah Salah (Left) during the sitting with the PS

Belio Kipsang, Principal Secretary in the State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services told the National Assembly's Committee on Regional Integration, chaired by Hon. Irene Mayaka, that the government aims to issue 3 million national ID cards to Kenyans nationwide in the ongoing exercise.

Appearing before the Committee early this month in a sitting held in Parliament buildings, to apprise the lawmakers on the progress made in the implementation of East African Community (EAC) Common Market Protocol geared towards enhancing efficiency of issuance of e-passports to facilitate non discriminatory movement within the EAC region, the PS hinted that the exercise will be also targeting students in schools who have attained the age of 18 years.

"Hon. Members, we have invested in technology, we moved from a manual system of issuing ID cards to a digital system where we scan all documents in the live capture equipment, this allows us to issue this important document within ten days and a replacement for the same within a day", he said.

"Since we started using the live capture equipment, in five months we have issued 1.5 million ID cards. 1.9 million ID cards were issued last year and we are projecting to issue to issue 3 million ID cards by the end of this year. This is because of efficiency with the stoppage of the vetting process which had denied many Kenyans a chance to get ID cards. We have Kenyans in Wajir and Narok Counties who are getting ID cards for the first time in their 60's and 80's of age", PS Kipsang added.

On concerns about IDs being issued to foreigners, the PS clarified that the government only issues alien ID cards to non-citizens to allow them to access services such as SIM card and telephone registration. Refugees receive special ID cards, not the standard national ID card.

Committee Chairperson Hon. Irene Mayaka applauded the PS and his docket for efforts to fasten the process of acquiring ID cards and passports in the country.

On regional integration and the implementation of the Common Market Protocol, Committee Members urged the PS to push for the use of national ID cards for travel within East African states and willing partner countries.

National Assembly moves to protect fisheries and shielding artisanal fishers with amended legal framework



Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Blue Economy, Water and Irrigation, Hon. Kangogo Bowen (left) in a previous meeting



Suba North MP, Hon. Millie Odhiambo makes a contribution on the Bill in the House

The National Assembly is considering the Fisheries Management and Development Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 29 of 2023), set to pave way for for a modern legal framework aimed at promoting sustainable fisheries management while safeguarding the livelihoods of thousands of artisanal fishers across Kenya.

The legislation introduces comprehensive reforms governing both marine and inland fisheries, strengthening conservation measures, regulating fishing methods and establishing financial support mechanisms for small-scale fishers.

During consideration of the Bill at the Committee of the Whole House, Members approved amendments to Clause 40, empowering the Director of Fisheries to limit fishing activities in accordance with the Act's objectives, principles and provisions.

Suba North MP, Hon. Millie Odhiambo explained the amendment, saying: "I am only adding the word 'provisions' so that it reads: 'The Director may take fisheries management measures to limit fishing and fishing-related activities in accordance with the objectives, principles and provisions."

The House also amended Clause 41 to expand regulation beyond fishing gear to include fishing methods, while requiring the Cabinet Secretary to develop guidelines on mesh sizes for different water bodies and fish species.

Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Blue Economy, Water and Irrigation, Hon. Kangogo Bowen, said the amendment would help address emerging challenges in the sector.

"The Amendment seeks to enable the Cabinet Secretary to provide for the regulation of emerging fishing methods and also develop guidelines to provide for mesh sizes and fishing nets for specific water bodies and fish species in freshwater bodies," Hon. Bowen told the House.

The proposed restrictions on destructive fishing gear, including monofilament and beach seine nets, generated intense debate, with Members from coastal and lake regions warning that an immediate ban could severely affect fishing communities.

Kilifi North MP, Hon. Owen Baya sought assurances that existing fishing gear would remain in use during the transition period.

"I would like the Chairperson to assure us that Clause 41 has a transitional clause. The gears, the seine nets, the monofilament nets and all the other nets remain in force until the transitional period is provided for. Otherwise, we are bound to oppose this," he said.

Responding to concerns raised by Members, the House agreed to include a two-year transition period before the ban on specified fishing gear takes effect, allowing fishers time to acquire compliant equipment.

The Bill also establishes the Fish Levy Development Fund, with 10 per cent of the Fund earmarked for artisanal fishers to support the acquisition of compliant fishing gear and improve their welfare. Several lawmakers proposed increasing the allocation to 20 per cent to ease the transition for small-scale fishers.

If enacted, the legislation will modernise fisheries governance, aligning Kenya with international commitments on sustainable fishing while providing safeguards for artisanal fishing communities as they transition to environmentally responsible practices.

Lands Committee hears Petition from Kericho Ogiek squatters over land injustices

Members of the Departmental Committee on Lands has commenced consideration of a petition by representatives of the Chang Kelek Kipsigis Ogiek squatters, who are seeking parliamentary intervention to address what they describe as more than a century of displacement, eviction and unfulfilled promises of resettlement.

Appearing before the Committee chaired by Hon. Joash Nyamoko, the petitioners gave emotional accounts of historical injustices dating back to 1913, when they said their ancestors were forcibly evicted from the Kibulgeny Samburet Mokokwegaa Forest in present-day Kericho County by the colonial administration.

According to the petitioners, the community was subsequently relocated to the Chemogondany, Marinyi and Chepkoiben Tea Estates, where many worked as casual labourers for decades before receiving eviction notices in 1962, leaving successive generations without land ownership.

Elderly members of the community narrated decades of hardship, saying generations of their families have remained landless despite repeated government commitments to resettle the Ogiek community.

Committee Chairperson Hon. Joash Nyamoko assured the petitioners that the Committee would give the matter thorough consideration.



Lands Committee Chairperson, Hon. Joash Nyamoko during a session with the members of the Ogiek squatters

"Parliament has a constitutional responsibility to hear the voices of citizens and ensure that government institutions account for their actions. We are committed to examining this Petition thoroughly and pursuing a fair and lawful resolution," Hon. Nyamoko said.

The petitioners argued that although the excision of sections of the Mau Forest Complex through Legal Notice No. 328 of January 30, 2001 was intended to facilitate the resettlement of the Ogiek community and victims of land clashes, they were excluded from the exercise.

They further cited a resolution passed by the Kericho County Assembly on March 17, 2021, supporting the conversion of LR No. 25005 Kericho/Samburet from public land to community land to facilitate settlement of the affected families.

The community is asking the National Assembly to facilitate investigations into the alleged historical injustices, work with the National Land Commission to recommend appropriate redress, urge the relevant Ministry to fast-track their settlement, facilitate the issuance of title deeds and oversee the survey and demarcation of the proposed settlement land.

Following the hearing, the Committee resolved to undertake a fact-finding mission to Kericho County. During the visit, Members will inspect the petitioners' settlements at Chemogondany, Marinyi and Chepkoiben Tea Estates, assess conditions on the ground, inspect LR No. 25005 Kericho/Samburet, engage local administrators, including the Deputy County Commissioner for Ainamoi Sub-County and the Chief of Kericho Town, document their findings through photographs and video recordings, and conduct a public hearing to receive submissions from affected residents and other stakeholders.

National Assembly debates Bill to modernize Competition Law to protect digital traders and consumers

The National Assembly has commenced debate on the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2026, legislation designed to regulate the fast-growing digital economy, curb anti-competitive conduct and strengthen protection for consumers, small businesses and farmers.

Moving the Bill's Second Reading, Leader of the Majority Party Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah said the current Competition Act was enacted before the rapid expansion of digital commerce and requires urgent reforms to address emerging market realities.

"Today's marketplace is no longer confined to physical shops. We now have a robust digital economy where dominant online platforms can easily edge out smaller players. This Bill seeks to ensure fair competition for everyone," Hon. Ichung'wah told the House.

The Bill, currently undergoing public participation before the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning, proposes sweeping amendments to the Competition Act (Cap. 504) by giving the Competition Authority of Kenya stronger powers to regulate digital platforms, investigate anti-competitive practices and enforce compliance.

According to the Bill, digital marketplaces, search engines, app stores and social media platforms that wield significant market influence will face closer regulatory oversight to prevent abuse of market power.

Hon. Ichung'wah said the proposed law will also outlaw abuse of superior bargaining positions, a practice that has often disadvantaged farmers, suppliers and small enterprises dealing with dominant buyers.

"We want to protect small suppliers and entrepreneurs from delayed payments, unfair



Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning, Hon. Kuria Kimani speaking in the National Assembly



Majority Party Leader, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah shares his perspectives on the Bill. Joining the debate was the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning, Hon. Kuria Kimani (left)

contract termination, unilateral price reductions and oppressive contractual conditions imposed by powerful market players," he said.

The legislation further introduces administrative penalties of up to 10 percent of a firm's gross annual turnover in Kenya for serious violations, significantly strengthening enforcement by the Competition Authority.

Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning, Hon. Kuria Kimani, described the Bill as a transition from "the analogue era to the algorithm era."

"This Bill is not about punishing success. It ensures that success does not become a weapon used against smaller players. We are placing a shield of fairness around our MSMEs, farmers, suppliers and digital hustlers," he said.

Hon. Kimani noted that many young entrepreneurs now rely on online platforms whose rules are dictated by algorithms and terms they cannot negotiate, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation.

If enacted, the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2026 will align Kenya's competition framework with international best practices, promote fair competition in digital markets, enhance investor confidence and foster a more transparent, innovative and consumer-friendly economy while safeguarding small businesses from unfair market conduct

CLIQUE & CLICKS



Vice Chairperson of the Education Committee, Hon. Eve Obara (Kabondo Kasipul), chairing a Committee meeting recently



Member of Lands Committee, Hon. Paul Katana consoling an elderly woman from the Ogiek squatter who had teared up during her presentation of their petition over historical land injustice



A youthful moran from the Endoros and Ilchamus Communities of Makutani in Baringo South Constituency welcome Members of the Implementation Committee at Murani Ole Kidimi camp for a meeting. Looking on is Hon. Ntutu Kitilai, MP Narok South and Hon. Elijah Memusi, MP Kajiado Central at the back.



Transport Committee Members listen to the contractor of the Mamboleo - Kapsabet road. They were joined by officers from KeNHA and the State Department for Roads



BUNGE MASHINANI ▸ DAGORETI SOUTH CONSTITUENCY

Construction of the iconic Waithaka police station takes shape

The new Waithaka Police Station in Dagoreti South constituency is taking shape on a historic Dagoretti compound that has served as the seat of local administration for generations.

Area MP Hon. John Kiarie said Waithaka occupies a special place in Kenya's history and must be protected even as new security infrastructure is developed for the growing community.

"Waithaka holds a special place in Kenya's history, and we are preserving the old Administration block that has served the community from the colonial era to date," he said.

The compound has hosted public servants including D.O. Cornelius Wanyonyi Wamalwa and Francis Kaguthi before his appointment as Provincial Commissioner.

Hon. Kiarie said talks with residents and workers confirmed the need for the station, calling it a reassurance for any neighbourhood. He said the project will strengthen security, improve emergency response, support businesses and give officers better working conditions while preserving a landmark that reflects Waithaka's long administrative history. He said the station will also serve nearby estates and reinforce confidence among families, traders and commuters every day.



Dagoreti South MP Hon. John Kiarie welcomed by a police office at Waithaka police station to inspect construction of the project.

RUNYENJES CONSTITUENCY

Hon. Karemba commissions school projects, engages residents on Kiringa–Ndumari road project



Hon. Muchangi Karemba (left, holding cheque), during the commissioning of the Nyagari Primary School facelift project.

Runyenjes MP Hon. Muchangi Karemba on July 13, 2026 presided over the handover of a newly constructed Administration Block at Gaikama Boarding Primary School in Kagaari North Ward, Runyenjes Constituency, reaffirming his commitment to improving education infrastructure across the constituency.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, Hon. Karemba described the new administration block as a significant investment that will strengthen the school's administrative operations while creating a more conducive environment for teaching and learning. He noted that improved educational facilities are key to enhancing service delivery and supporting better learning outcomes for pupils.

"This reflects our unwavering commitment to improving educational infrastructure across Runyenjes Constituency because every child deserves access to quality education in facilities that match their potential," said Hon. Karemba.

Later the same day, the legislator commissioned the Nyagari Primary School facelift project in Kyeni South Ward, where he presented a cheque of Ksh. 3.3 million to support the implementation of the project.

Hon. Karemba also met residents during a public participation forum on the proposed expansion of the Kiringa–Ndumari Road. The forum attracted a large turnout, with residents sharing their views, concerns and proposals on the planned project.

SIAYA COUNTY

Hon. Ombaka commissions Malunga market, empowers women traders

Siaya County Woman Representative Hon. Christine Ombaka has commissioned and handed over Malunga Market to the local business community under the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF).

During the event, Hon. Ombaka presented Women Economic Empowerment cheques to various groups, distributed aprons and commercial umbrellas to women traders and market vendors, and handed over 6,000-litre water tanks to selected schools and churches.

She said the initiatives are aimed at improving traders' working conditions, empowering women economically and enhancing access to clean water in community institutions.



Hon. Christine Ombaka, Siaya County Woman Representative, presents a Women Economic Empowerment cheque to a beneficiary group under the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) during the commissioning of Malunga Market.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



Insecurity and political goonism have become a threat to women, men and young people, affecting our economic, social and cultural spaces. As leaders, we must honestly acknowledge that this is organised, coordinated and financed criminal activity disguised as freedom of expression. These armed gangs operate with confidence because they believe they have protection. Kenya is greater than any individual, and no political ambition should divide the nation beyond repair. I urge young people recruited into such networks to be careful. Those who send them will not support them in prison or care for their families if they are killed. Choose peace."

-Hon. Ruth Odinga (Kisumu County)



It would be simplistic to place the responsibility of restoring order on our chaotic roads solely on NTSA. The behaviour seen among boda boda riders and public service vehicles reflects a broader national culture that requires serious public education and national dialogue. This challenge cannot be solved by one institution alone, just as political violence cannot be left to the IEBC. We all have a role in changing attitudes and promoting respect for the law. The police must enforce existing laws, but lasting change will only come when society embraces discipline, responsibility and respect for public order across the country together."

- Hon. Yusuf Hassan (Kamukunji)



Kenya is facing a serious mental health and suicide crisis driven by socioeconomic distress, unemployment and relationship challenges. Young people aged 15 to 35 are the most affected. We must address this issue urgently because criminalisation is not the solution. Nobody chooses to be in such circumstances. Life's hardships are pushing many people to desperate measures. Drug and substance abuse, together with marital problems, often stem from economic difficulties that make it harder for people to cope. Those struggling with mental health challenges need compassion, professional support and access to counselling centres instead of punishment. We must strengthen community support systems."

- Hon. Beatrice Adagala (Vihiga County)



I urge principals of TVET institutions to work closely with Members of Parliament so more needy students can benefit from NG-CDF bursaries and scholarships. Many young people miss valuable opportunities because they are unaware of the courses offered by technical institutions. Principals should take information directly to communities through continuous outreach and career awareness campaigns. By working together with Members of Parliament, TVET institutions can identify deserving students and expand access to technical and vocational training. Through NG-CDF support, we can ensure that financial challenges do not prevent qualified learners from acquiring practical skills for employment and self-reliance."

-Hon. Thuddeus Nzambia (Kilome)



"Let us speak to our school-going children, especially girls in secondary schools. Most schools recently affected by unrest were girls' schools. As parents, we should not abdicate our responsibility. For many years, school burnings mostly affected boys' schools, but now girls are becoming involved. It is unfathomable that a girl can organise to buy petrol and burn her own school. It happened in Gilgil, and we have seen similar attempts to burn schools elsewhere, including in our county. Fear of examinations should never drive learners to destroy schools. Personally, I support reintroducing caning because discipline has declined. What generation are we raising today?."

- Hon. Gertrude Mbeyu (Kilifi County)



Accounting officers and heads of government institutions must embrace accountability by providing comprehensive responses to audit queries and ensuring public resources are managed prudently. They should stop treating audit issues casually because public institutions have both a legal and moral duty to account for every shilling entrusted to them. Timely and satisfactory responses to audit findings are essential in strengthening public confidence in government institutions. Audit queries should always be addressed comprehensively, transparently and within the required timelines. Accountability remains at the heart of good governance and is critical in promoting integrity, efficiency and responsible management of public resources."

-Hon. Boyd Were (Kasipul)



Indiscipline in our schools has become an issue. However, whatever students are doing reflects what is happening in society. The moral fabric of society is broken, and students are merely replicating it. For example, leaders hurl insults at each other before young people and hire goons to fight at public rallies. We must address this seriously by involving parents, leaders and every member of society. We should also review the Education Act and student distribution across schools. No school should have 4,000 students while another remains underutilised. This challenge requires a multifaceted approach to resolve it once and for all."

-Hon. (Prof.) Phylis Bartoo (Moiben)



I have reflected on the increasing cases of students burning schools and dormitories. Some people believe school discipline declined after corporal punishment was abolished, and I think they have a point. Parents must also take greater responsibility for guiding their children and reinforcing respect for teachers. Teachers should not be left alone to manage discipline. Parents, teachers and communities must work together to instil values and responsibility among learners. We need a united approach that restores discipline in schools while ensuring students receive proper guidance, support and mentorship. Strong partnerships will help create a more respectful learning environment for everyone."

Hon. Richard Yegon (Bomet East)



I urge teachers to strive to create a positive learning environment where every child enjoys being in school. The Ministry of Education should ensure capitation funds reach schools on time each term so learners receive quality services, proper meals and adequate support. School administrations, parents, leaders and NG-CDF committees should work together to decongest classrooms and dormitories. A dormitory designed for 200 students should not accommodate 350. Headteachers should admit only the number of students their institutions can properly support. The Ministry should conduct regular inspections, while the Education CS should make impromptu visits to monitor compliance with standards."

-Hon. Betty Maina (Murang'a)



In regard to curbing suicide attempts, I strongly support the proposal to establish more mental health centres across the country. There should be one in every county and, if possible, every constituency. Drug and alcohol abuse can contribute to suicide attempts. A strong mental healthcare system will save many Kenyans instead of relying solely on the criminal justice system. Article 28 of the Constitution guarantees every person's inherent dignity. Government must promote mental health programmes and nationwide awareness campaigns so people seek help freely. Criminalising those affected will not resolve the crisis or save lives."

- Hon. Paroshina Sakimba (Kajiado South)

Lawmakers call for permanent solutions to the growing human-wildlife conflict along River Yala



Bondo MP, Hon. Gideon Ochanda during the meeting



Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Tourism and Wildlife, Hon. Kareke Mbiuki makes a point during the meeting

Residents living along the Lower Yala River in Siaya County could soon benefit from strengthened interventions after Members of Parliament called for urgent action to address the growing threat of crocodile attacks.

The National Assembly heard that the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has intensified efforts to reduce human-wildlife conflict in the area through community sensitization, deployment of specialized response teams, installation of traps, and facilitation of compensation claims for affected families.

Responding to a statement sought by Bondo MP Hon. Gideon Ochanda on June 30, 2026, Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Tourism and Wildlife, Hon. Kareke Mbiuki, told the House that the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) had identified Yimbo East, North Yimbo, Komolo, Mago, and Ngunya villages as major crocodile conflict hotspots.

He said KWS had intensified public awareness campaigns, deployed a specialized Problem Animal Management Unit, set seven traps in affected areas, relocated two crocodiles, and intercepted another dangerous reptile in April this year.

"The Service has implemented sensitisation programmes, deployed response teams and assisted affected families in filing compensation claims," Hon. Mbiuki told the House.

He attributed the rising attacks to human encroachment into riparian zones, dependence on River Yala as the main water source, flooding caused by heavy rains upstream, and risky activities such as fishing, sand harvesting, and crossing rivers at night.

However, Hon. Ochanda questioned the effectiveness of some interventions, arguing that measures reported in Nairobi did not always reflect the reality on the ground.

"There is no way a crocodile will be caught on an unbaited hook," he said, urging KWS to establish wildlife sanctuaries where captured crocodiles can be relocated rather than blaming communities for relying on river water.

Funyula MP Hon. Wilberforce Oundo said neighbouring communities were grappling with hippopotamus attacks that had claimed lives and destroyed fishing equipment, calling for closer collaboration with KWS response teams.

Turkana Central MP, Hon. Joseph Emathe painted an equally grim picture, revealing that body parts of recent crocodile attack victims were still lying in a morgue as families awaited justice.

"The most painful thing is the delayed compensation," he said, noting that some beneficiaries die before receiving payments.

Hon. Mbiuki acknowledged that compensation remained the "elephant in the room," revealing that approved but unpaid wildlife compensation claims now exceed Ksh5 billion, against a budget allocation of less than Ksh1.5 billion.

He appealed to Parliament to allocate more funds to the compensation programme, saying adequate financing would help settle long-standing claims and restore public confidence in the Government's response to the growing human-wildlife conflict.

Speaker Wetang'ula urges churches to champion civic responsibility and development in Kenya

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula has challenged churches to play a more active role in promoting civic responsibility, national unity, and socio-economic development.

Speaker Wetang'ula said faith institutions remain the backbone of community transformation in Kenya.

Speaking at the MUCODET and Mothers' Union fundraising drive at the ACK Diocese of Mumias in Nangili, Matungu Constituency, Wetang'ula urged clergy and Mothers' Union members to mobilize communities to actively participate in national programs and embrace initiatives that improve livelihoods.

He said the church enjoys public trust and is uniquely positioned to instill values of integrity, accountability, and responsible citizenship.

"We are appealing to our church leaders to guide their congregations on the importance of civic responsibility. An informed and engaged community is the foundation of development," he said.

The Speaker noted that research conducted by regional leaders indicates that hundreds of thousands of residents in Kakamega and Bungoma counties have obtained national identity cards but have yet to fully participate in key civic processes.

He urged women through the Mothers' Union to champion civic education and community mobilization, describing them as the pillars of



Congregants at the ACK Diocese of Mumias in Nangili, Matungu Constituency, on Friday, 17th July 2026



Speaker Wetang'ula warmly received by the clergy and faithful at the ACK Diocese of Mumias in Nangili, Matungu Constituency on Friday, 17th July 2026.

Calling for peaceful engagement in public affairs, Wetang'ula cautioned leaders against divisive politics, hate speech, and personal attacks, saying that meaningful dialogue should focus on development and the welfare of citizens.

He highlighted key government projects transforming the region, including the revival of the Mumias and Nzoia sugar factories, the completion of stalled projects such as Bukhungu Stadium and the Kakamega Level Six Teaching and Referral Hospital, the construction of modern markets, and reforms requiring sugar millers to pay annual bonuses to cane farmers.

Wetang'ula said the investments are stimulating economic growth, creating jobs and revitalising towns across Western Kenya.

He urged the church to continue mentoring young people, nurturing moral values, and producing responsible leaders who can drive national unity and sustainable development for future generations.

families and grassroots development.

BUNGE Weekly

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Central Imenti MP seeks Parliament intervention to end Meru-Tharaka boundary row



Central Imenti MP, Hon. Moses Kirima in a meeting

The National Assembly has been asked to intervene in the decades-old boundary and land adjudication disputes affecting Kiamuri A and Kiamuri B in Central Imenti Constituency, with MPs warning that the unresolved conflict continues to fuel insecurity, displacement and uncertainty over land ownership.

Rising in the House to seek a Statement, Hon. Moses Kirima (Central Imenti) called on the Committee on Lands to explain why previous government interventions and parliamentary resolutions have failed to bring lasting peace to the affected communities.

"Kiamuri A and Kiamuri B have for many years been affected by persistent land and boundary disputes that have undermined security, disrupted land ownership rights and threatened peaceful coexistence among neighbouring communities," said Hon. Kirima.

He urged the Government to confirm the legally recognised boundary between Central Imenti Constituency in Meru County and neighbouring Tharaka South, implement earlier agreements on land adjudication, investigate reports of encroachment, killings, destruction of property and displacement, and undertake a comprehensive boundary verification and land adjudication audit.

The request sparked a spirited exchange among lawmakers from the neighbouring constituencies.

Hon. George Murugara (Tharaka) disagreed with some of the claims, arguing that previous government actions had already settled the matter.

"The fact remains that all agencies have ascertained that the areas he claims are in his Central Imenti Constituency are in Tharaka Constituency," Hon. Murugara said.

However, Hon. Dr John Mutunga (Tigania West) said the dispute extends beyond Central Imenti and affects several constituencies across Meru County and Committee to go into the depth and breadth of the issue and bring the facts to this House.

Hon. Mugambi Rindikiri (Buuri) also backed the request, saying the dispute has persisted for years and requires an impartial resolution.

This week in history

15 July 1983: President Moi Rings the Early Bell on Bunge



On 15 July 1983, President Daniel arap Moi exercised his constitutional authority to dissolve the National Assembly approximately one year before the expiry of its five-year term, paving the way for the General Election held on 26 September 1983, popularly known as the Nyayo Elections. The dissolution occurred during a period of significant political transition, as Kenya continued to recover from the 1982 attempted coup and experienced heightened political activity within the ruling Kenya African National Union (KANU).

At the time, Kenya was a de jure one-party State following the 1982 constitutional amendment that recognised KANU as the country's sole lawful political party. Consequently, electoral contests were conducted among KANU candidates rather than between competing political parties. The elections returned President Moi unopposed, while KANU secured all elected parliamentary seats. Despite the one-party framework, nearly 40 per cent of incumbent Members of Parliament lost their seats, voter turnout stood at approximately 48 per cent, the lowest since independence and only two women were elected to the National Assembly.

The dissolution and subsequent elections underscore the constitutional relationship between the Executive and the Legislature during the one-party era and illustrate how elections served as a mechanism for parliamentary renewal. They also reflect the political and constitutional realities that shaped Parliament's operations during that period.

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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, Murimi Mwangi, Fridah Ngari, Mercy Mayende, Ivy Maritim, Ambrose Nguti, Rinah Saineye, Kevin Obillo, Sarafina Kaiyongi, Mike Wainaina, Dennis Gitonga, Jesse Chenge

This Week in History segment is compiled by the Parliamentary Research Service


- Parliament of Kenya
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@nationalassemblyke