UHC health workers face uncertainty as MP demands permanent jobs, gratuity Page 7

BUNGE Weekly

Issue No. 148

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

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Monday, July 27th, 2026 to Monday, August 3rd, 2026

Business law reforms top agenda as MPs resume sittings



The National Assembly in session

High court dismisses petition seeking to bar Speaker Wetang'ula and Kingi from participating in political activities





The High Court has struck out a Petition seeking to bar National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula and his Senate counterpart Rt. Hon. Amason Kingi from participating in political activities.

High Court Judge, Justice David Mburu ruled that the Petition filed by Vocal Africa was premature as the Petitioners had not exhausted all the available legal avenues before moving to Court.

Justice Mburu ruled that the Petitioners had not filed any complaint with the Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission (EACC) against the alleged violation of Chapter Six

TURN TO PAGE 2

PLENARY

Parliamentarians push for stronger accountability in advancing Women's economic empowerment

Members of Parliament have called for stronger accountability mechanisms, adequate resource allocation and timely implementation of policies aimed at advancing women's empowerment noting that legislation alone will not deliver meaningful change without effective execution.

The calls were made during a capacity-strengthening workshop on Women's Economic Empowerment jointly organised by the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) and the Institute of Public Finance (IPF), with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The workshop brought together legislators to strengthen parliamentary action on gender-responsive legislation, budgeting and oversight.

Speaking on behalf of KEWOPA Chairperson Hon. Leah Sankaire (Kajiado County) , Nominated MP Hon. Irene Mayaka said advancing women's economic empowerment is a shared responsibility that requires both women and men to work together.

She noted that meaningful progress towards gender equality can only be achieved through inclusive partnerships, adding that Parliament has a critical role in promoting equitable policies, supporting fair resource allocation and ensuring institutions effectively respond to the needs of all citizens.

Members were also taken through Parliament's constitutional mandate in advancing the policy through legislation, budget allocation and oversight of government programmes.

Contributing to the discussions, Hon. Mary Emaase (Teso South) welcomed the policy proposals but expressed concern over weak implementation.

"It is a good proposal, but the implementing agency is the problem. Until we address this issue, we will not move. There should be clear timelines for implementation and penalties for agencies that fail to comply," she said.



Members of Parliament during the workshop on advancing women's economic empowerment through policy reforms held in Naivasha, Nakuru County.

Hon. Ruth Odinga (Kisumu County) raised concern over the shrinking leadership space for women, saying deliberate efforts are needed to safeguard and expand women's participation in leadership and decision-making.

Hon. Jerusha Momanyi (Nyamira County) noted that women leaders often face disproportionate criticism whenever they make mistakes, despite the high expectations placed upon them.

During the plenary session, Members proposed the establishment of dedicated gender-budgeting teams within Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to analyse budgets through a gender lens, monitor implementation and regularly report on progress.

(Continued) from Page 1

of the Constitution; pursuant to the provisions of the Leadership and Integrity Act.

The judge ruled that the doctrine of exhaustion was applicable to the Petitioners' alleged violation and that the court was also not satisfied that there was any exception to the doctrine in the present Petition.

He added that the Petitioners had not adduced any evidence to demonstrate that they lacked adequate audience from the respective administrative agencies, on the remedies sought.

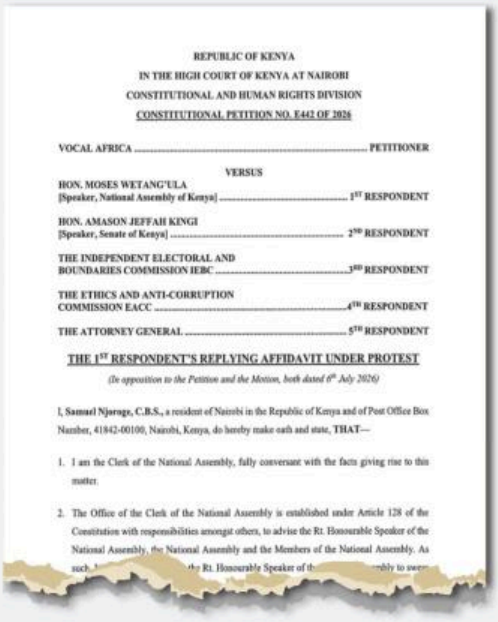
Justice Mburu further held that the Petitioners had not demonstrated how the two Speakers had violated provisions of Chapter six of the Constitution or the Conflict of Interest Act or the Leadership and Integrity Act as alleged.

The court thus determined that it was not necessary to determine the application for conservatory orders as sought by the Petitioners against the two Speakers. The objections were upheld and the Petition struck out on account of failure to exhaust statutory remedies under the Leadership and Integrity Act.

In court papers filed earlier, the two Speakers had opposed the Petitioners' application for conservatory orders to bar them from appearing in, or being represented in alleged organized partisan political events.

Speaker Wetang'ula who is also the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC), had in his affidavit told the court that the Petitioners were not acting in good faith as required of public interest matters of this nature.

"It is apparent that the Petitioners seeks relief against the respondent (Speaker) as an individual citizen and as a holder of a Constitutional office as Speaker … to the extent that the Petition is directed against the respondent in his personal capacity," argued Hon. Wetang'ula in his affidavit before Court.



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KENYA AT NAIROBI

CONSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION

CONSTITUTIONAL PETITION NO. E442 OF 2026

VOCAL AFRICA ..... PETITIONER

VERSUS

HON. MOSES WETANG'ULA
[Speaker, National Assembly of Kenya] ..... 1ST RESPONDENT

HON. AMASON JEFFAH KINGI
[Speaker, Senate of Kenya] ..... 2ND RESPONDENT

THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL AND
BOUNDARIES COMMISSION IEBC ..... 3RD RESPONDENT

THE ETHICS AND ANTI-CORRUPTION
COMMISSION EACC ..... 4TH RESPONDENT

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ..... 5TH RESPONDENT

THE 1ST RESPONDENT'S REPLYING AFFIDAVIT UNDER PROTEST

(In opposition to the Petition and the Motion, both dated 6th July 2026)

I, **Samuel Njoroge, C.B.S.,** a resident of Nairobi in the Republic of Kenya and of Post Office Box Number, 41842-00100, Nairobi, Kenya, do hereby make oath and state, **THAT—**

1. I am the Clerk of the National Assembly, fully conversant with the facts giving rise to this matter.

2. The Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly is established under Article 128 of the Constitution with responsibilities amongst others, to advise the Rt. Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, the National Assembly and the Members of the National Assembly. As

(Continued) from Page 1

The National Assembly will prioritize a raft of legislative reforms touching on business regulation, competition, media laws and consumer protection when it resumes sittings on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 after a short recess.

Leader of Majority Party Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah (Kikuyu) outlined the House's legislative agenda for the week of July 27 to 31 saying MPs will immediately embark on considering key Bills and Committee reports aimed at strengthening the country's legal and regulatory framework.

While presenting the House Business Committee's Statement before the lawmakers proceeded for recess on July 2, 2026, Hon. Ichung'wah said the Committee had met to prioritize business for consideration upon resumption of the House.

Among the priority items is the Second Reading of the Books and Newspapers (Amendment) Bill, 2025 which seeks to amend laws governing the publishing sector.

MPs will also debate the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2026 whose proposals are expected to strengthen the country's competition regime and improve regulation of market practices.

Another key piece of legislation scheduled for debate is the Business Laws (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bill No. 51 of 2024) which seeks to amend various statutes affecting the business environment to enhance efficiency and improve the ease of doing business.

The House is also expected to consider several Committee reports and petitions covering governance, public finance, transport and healthcare.

Among them is the report of the Kenyan delegation that attended the 151st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and related meetings, where legislators engaged counterparts from across the world on parliamentary democracy, governance and global policy issues.

The legislative agenda also includes consideration of a petition proposing amendments to the Consumer Protection Act amid growing calls for stronger safeguards for consumers in an increasingly digital and competitive marketplace.

Healthcare concerns are also set to feature prominently, with the House expected to debate a petition on the management of haemophilia and other bleeding disorders, highlighting the challenges patients face in accessing specialised treatment and support services.

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The legislative agenda also includes consideration of a petition proposing amendments to the Consumer Protection Act amid growing calls for stronger safeguards for consumers in an increasingly digital and competitive marketplace.

Female lawmakers set priority areas to advance women's political leaders

Members of the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) have identified key priority areas for collaboration with Women Political Leaders (WPL) to address challenges affecting women leaders and strengthen women's participation in political leadership.

The priority areas for the WPL Kenya Cohort's first year include women's political participation and democratic governance, peace, security and women's leadership, economic empowerment, trade and financial inclusion, as well as ending violence against women in politics.

The areas of collaboration were agreed upon during a meeting co-hosted by KEWOPA and WPL, which provided a platform for women MPs to discuss the challenges they face in leadership, identify opportunities for collaboration and explore practical solutions to issues affecting women in politics.

Speaking during the meeting, KEWOPA Vice Chairperson and Dagoretti North MP, Hon. Beatrice Elachi, said increasing the number of women elected to Parliament in the 2027 General Election would be critical to achieving the two-thirds gender principle in the 14th Parliament.

“If at least forty more women can be elected in 2027, then we shall achieve the two-thirds gender principle,” Hon. Elachi said.

Echoing the call for greater representation, Senator Catherine Mumma urged WPL to equip women leaders at both the national and county levels with skills to counter misinformation and disinformation on social media.



A section of the Members of Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) pose for a photo with officials from the Women Political Leaders (WPL) after the meeting on Jully 22nd 2026.

“Women leaders need the capacity to guard against violence on social media. Most women have been affected mentally and pulled down from the race,” Senator Mumma said.

She also called on the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) to strengthen measures to curb political violence, deter goonism and ensure violations targeting women leaders are monitored and addressed.

Responding to the views raised by the MPs, WPL Africa Strategic Advisor and former Tanzanian lawmaker, Hon. Neema Lugangira, acknowledged the unique challenges women face in politics, noting that identifying issues affecting women at the grassroots level would help inform targeted interventions.

“We are here to get views from women leaders on the potential projects for the WPL Kenya Cohort, pegged on their policy interests,” Hon. Lugangira said.

KEWOPA Executive Director Ms. Mercy Mwangi reaffirmed the association's commitment to providing platforms that enable women leaders to network, share experiences and work together to advance women's political participation.

She noted that the priority areas identified by women MPs would provide a clear framework for addressing challenges affecting women in political leadership while strengthening their participation in governance.

In her closing remarks, Suba North MP, Hon. Millie Mabona, encouraged women leaders to pursue development initiatives confidently despite limited resources, urging them to support one another with dignity while remaining resilient in the face of financial constraints.

"We are good girls and trained to be good. Even if some men launch projects worth Ksh. 10 million and yours is Ksh. 100,000, do it unapologetically," Hon. Mabona said.

She further urged WPL to fast-track the implementation of programmes that support transformative women's leadership.

Nyeri County MP Rahab Mukami elected Pan-African Parliament Women's Caucus president



Hon. Rahab Mukami elected Pan-African Parliament Women's Caucus president

Kenya has strengthened its influence in continental parliamentary affairs after Nyeri Woman Representative Rahab Mukami was elected President of the Women's Caucus of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) for a three-year term.

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula announced Mukami's election to the House on Monday, describing it as a major achievement for both the legislator and the country.

Hon. Mukami was elected during the Extraordinary Session of the Pan-African Parliament held in May 2026 in Midrand, South Africa.

The Women's Caucus, established under the Pan-African Parliament's Rules of Procedure, champions gender equality, women's empowerment and the integration of gender-sensitive legislation across African Union member states.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Speaker Wetang'ula said the election was a significant recognition of Kenya's commitment to promoting women's leadership and inclusive governance across the continent.

"Her election places Kenya at the helm of this important continental body and is a significant recognition of our country's continued commitment to promoting women's leadership and inclusive governance at the continental level," the Speaker said.

He noted that Hon. Mukami's new role presents an opportunity to strengthen the caucus's efforts in advancing policies that promote women's participation in decision-making, enhance economic empowerment and foster equal representation in governance and development across Africa.

Dr. Wetang'ula said the position would also enhance Kenya's contribution to parliamentary diplomacy and continental cooperation.

"On my own behalf and that of the House, I extend our warmest congratulations to Hon. Rahab Mukami on her well-deserved election. I am confident that she will discharge her responsibilities with distinction," he said, urging Members of Parliament to support her as she undertakes the continental assignment.

Kabuchai MP, Hon. Majimbo Kalasinga, who serves alongside Mukami in the Pan-African Parliament, praised her election, saying it reflected her exemplary performance and leadership in the continental legislative body.

"Hon. Rahab Mukami is a diligent leader carrying Kenya's image across the globe. She deserves the position she has earned," Kalasinga said.

He described the Women's Caucus presidency as one of the most prestigious positions within the Pan-African Parliament, attributing Mukami's election to her consistency, eloquence and active participation in debates during the Parliament's sittings in Midrand.

Hon. Kalasinga said Kenya's representation in key leadership positions within the Pan-African Parliament demonstrated the country's growing influence in continental affairs and expressed confidence that Mukami would excel in advancing the interests of women and Africa at large.

Retired prison officers lack medical cover despite years of service, MP says

Retired prison officers and their families continue to struggle to access affordable healthcare due to lack of a comprehensive medical insurance scheme, an MP has told the National Assembly.

West Mugirango MP Hon. Stephen Mogaka had sought a Statement from the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Affairs demanding an explanation on the provision of medical insurance for retired prison officers and their dependants.

Hon. Mogaka said prison officers dedicate their productive years to serving the country under demanding and high-risk conditions, yet many are left without adequate healthcare after retirement.

"Despite their invaluable contribution, many retired prison officers face immense challenges in accessing affordable and quality healthcare upon retirement," he said.

The legislator noted that prison officers play a critical role in maintaining law and order, rehabilitating offenders and safeguarding national security, but are currently excluded from a comprehensive medical insurance scheme after leaving service.

As a result, he said, many retirees and their dependants struggle to access essential treatment, exposing them to financial hardship and compromising their dignity and wellbeing.

Hon. Mogaka argued that the situation is particularly worrying given the occupational hazards and stressful conditions prison officers endure during their years of service, which may expose them to long- term health complications.

"The absence of adequate post-retirement medical cover undermines the welfare of retired officers who have served this country diligently," he said.

Through the Statement request, the MP wants the Committee to confirm whether a medical insurance cover exists for retired prison officers and their dependants and, if so, explain why beneficiaries have not been able to access the services.

He also sought details on measures the government is taking to establish a comprehensive medical insurance scheme for retired prison officers, their families and dependants of other disciplined service officers. In addition, Hon. Mogaka asked the Committee to provide timelines within which the government intends to address the healthcare needs and welfare of retired prison officers and their dependants.



West Mugirango MP Hon. Stephen Mogaka at a past meeting

COMMITTEES' ROUND-UP

Hon. Haji awarded Honorary Doctorate for peace initiatives by a US based university

The Chairperson of the National Assembly Committee on Cohesion and Equal Opportunities, Hon. Yussuf Adan Haji, has been recognised by an international university for his outstanding peace initiatives.

Hon. Haji, alongside other distinguished leaders, was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate in Peace and Security Management by Crown University of Delaware, USA during a colourful ceremony held in Lagos, Nigeria.

The Mandera West MP expressed his gratitude and humility following the recognition, describing the award as an honour that reflects the collective efforts of many stakeholders.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank Crown University for this recognition and all stakeholders, including my colleagues sitting on the Cohesion and Equal Opportunities Committee in the National Assembly, with whom we have worked to promote peace, harmony and cohesion in troubled regions across the continent," he said.

Hon. Haji noted that the recognition has inspired him to redouble his efforts in advancing peacebuilding and conflict resolution programmes aimed at fostering lasting stability and unity.

"My dream is to see our continent is free from conflicts that has seen millions loose lives, others displaced not subjected to unfold suffering. This recognition is a boost to my ambitious peace initiatives," he added.



The National Cohesion and Equal Opportunities Committee chairman Hon. Yusuf Adan Haji (centre) displays his Honorary Doctorate certificate confered to him by Crown University of Delaware USA for his outstanding role in peace and security management.

He noted that in Kenya, together with his colleagues on the Committee have been able to effectively broker peace in troubled regions in the country.

"As a Committee we have come up with legislation that empowers organisations that are mandated to deal with peace and cohesiveness like the National Cohesion and Integration Commission," he added.

Haji noted that in African continent women and children are largely affected by conflicts noting that peace initiatives have achieved a lot of progress in dealing with conflicts.

"We have seen women and children subjected to unfold suffering after being displaced whenever conflicts arises. As peace makers we are determined to ensure that our people live in peace for prosperity," he added.

> "As a Committee we have come up with legislation that empowers entities that are mandated to deal with peace and cohesiveness such as the National Cohesion and Integration Commission."
> -Hon. Haji

PAC calls for compliance with disability employment quota



PAC Chairperson Hon. Tindi Mwale during the engagement with NLC officials

The Public Accounts Committee has directed government institutions to comply with the legal requirement that at least five per cent of their workforce be persons living with disabilities.

The Committee, chaired by Hon. Tindi Mwale (Butere), expressed concern that many State agencies continue to violate the law despite clear provisions in the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2003. Section 13 of the Act requires both public and private employers to reserve at least five per cent of jobs for persons with disabilities.

The issue arose when the Committee examined the Auditor-General's Report for the 2023/2024 financial year on the accounts of the National Lands Commission (NLC).

According to the audit report, only seven of the Commission's 628 employees, representing one per cent of the workforce, are persons with disabilities. The Auditor-General further noted that although the Commission recruited 99 employees during the year under review, none was a person with a disability.

"Government agencies should be at the forefront in ensuring that people with disabilities are part of the workforce, as required by the law. There is no excuse," said Hon. Mwale.

NLC Chief Executive Officer Kabale Tache, who appeared before the Committee alongside Commission Chairperson Dr. Abdillahi Alawy and other officials, admitted that the Commission had fallen short of the required quota. They however assured the MPs that they are actively working to address this matter.

Ms Tache explained that the shortfall was not due to lack of commitment but was a result of historical staffing challenges and limited applications from qualified persons with disabilities during previous recruitment exercises.

Committee Members rejected the explanation, saying the Commission had no justification for failing to meet the legal requirement. They noted that the country has many qualified persons with disabilities seeking employment.

Constituencies to share Kshs. 58.7bn as NG-CDF allocation rises by 5.1pc

Kenya's 290 constituencies will share Kshs. 58.708 billion from the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) in the 2026/27 financial year after Parliament approved a 5.1 per cent increase in the fund's allocation despite a constrained fiscal environment.

Tabling the schedule of constituency budget ceilings before the National Assembly, National Government Constituencies Development Fund Committee Chairperson and Eldama Ravine MP, Hon. Musa Sirma said the increase would support equitable development across the country.

"The increase, though modest given the tight fiscal environment, is a step in the right direction towards catalysing equitable and transformative development interventions across the Republic," he told the House.

The Constitution of Kenya dictates that the fund must receive not less than 2.5 per cent of the national government's share of revenue as approved through the annual Division of Revenue Act. This equates to a total allocation of Kshs 61.798 for the 2026/27 financial year

Of the Kshs. 61.798 billion allocated, Kshs. 3.09 billion, equivalent to 5 per cent of the fund, has been set aside to cater for the administration and operational expenses of the NG-CDF Board.



Eldama Ravine MP Hon. Musa Sirma, who chairs the National Government Constituencies Development Fund Committee (NG-CDF) during a past Committee session at Continental House Parliament Buildings

This leaves Kshs. 58.708 billion available for direct allocation to the 290 constituencies under the equitable share formula, with 75 per cent of the funds shared equally among all constituencies and the remaining 25 per cent distributed based on the number of wards in each constituency.

Kshs. 44.03 billion will be distributed equally among the 290 constituencies, with each receiving Kshs. 151 million. The remaining Kshs. 14.68 billion will be allocated based on the number of wards in each constituency.

The Committee also confirmed that another Kshs. 3.09 billion, representing 5 per cent of the total fund, has been set aside for emergency purposes ring-fenced in accordance with the provisions of the NG-CDF Act.

The Committee further disclosed that 76 constituencies generated Kshs. 24.66 million in Appropriations-in-Aid (A-in-A), mainly from rental income and other revenues earned from buildings and facilities developed through the fund.

Hon. Sirma urged Members of Parliament to submit their proposed projects for the 2026/27 financial year before the July 31st deadline to facilitate timely planning and implementation.

He also announced that the NG-CDF Board had introduced a Quick Response (QR) code system that will enable MPs to monitor payments, project implementation and other activities in their constituencies in real time.

Rift between Kenya Power and REREC blamed for delays in electricity connections

Members of Parliament have raised concerns about persistent delays in electricity connections nationwide, blaming an apparent lack of coordination between the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC) and Kenya Power.

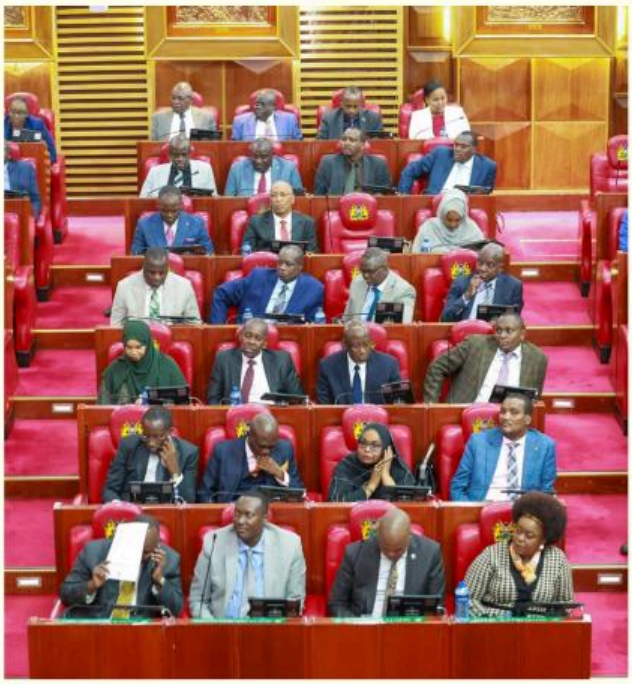
During debate in the National Assembly, lawmakers said the dispute between the two state agencies has left completed electrical infrastructure idle, with thousands of households and businesses unable to access power despite the installation of transformers and power lines.

Kitui Central MP Hon. Makali Mulu said Kenyans were bearing the brunt of the standoff, arguing that the public was only interested in receiving electricity, regardless of which agency was responsible.

"The conflict between REREC and Kenya Power is causing these problems," said Dr. Mulu. "REREC installs transformers, but when Kenya Power officials come to connect electricity, they claim the transformers are not in their systems. At the end of the day, Kenyans want electricity. They do not care who provides it."

He urged the relevant parliamentary committee to summon officials from both institutions to explain how they are collaborating to ensure seamless electricity connectivity.

Kesses MP Hon. Julius Rutto questioned who was responsible for procuring electricity metres, saying confusion over the mandate had stalled the completion of many rural electrification projects.



"The biggest challenge is not the installation of poles and power lines but connecting electricity to households," he said. "Projects have been started but cannot be completed because there are no metres. The Cabinet Secretary should explain who is responsible for procuring them."

Dagoretti North MP Hon. Beatrice Elachi said REREC's role was to build electricity infrastructure before handing it over to Kenya Power for maintenance and customer connections, but added that disagreements between the two institutions were hurting consumers.

She also criticised the high cost of electricity connection, saying some customers were being issued quotations that made access to power unaffordable despite their ability to pay monthly electricity bills.

"We must first resolve the challenges between the two institutions before we can help Kenyans access electricity," she said.

Homa Bay Woman Representative Atieno Bensuda accused REREC of delaying implementation of funded electricity projects through what she termed unnecessary requirements for matching funds.

She cited a Sh10 million allocation in the last financial year to electrify markets in Karachuonyo Constituency, including Kandiege Market and Kibiri Ward, saying the project had stalled despite funds being available and technical designs already completed.

"I do not need matching funds. I want them to utilize the available Sh10 million," she said, accusing the agency of frustrating projects meant to support women traders who rely on electricity to operate their businesses into the evening.

The lawmakers urged the National Assembly's Departmental Committee to fast-track investigations into the matter and ensure that the dispute between Kenya Power and REREC is resolved to prevent further delays to electricity connectivity projects nationwide.

UHC health workers face uncertainty as MP demands permanent jobs, gratuity

More than 7,400 Universal Health Coverage (UHC) health workers are facing uncertainty over their jobs and retirement benefits after their contracts expired at the end of June, prompting fresh calls for the government to absorb them into permanent and pensionable employment.

Hon. Catherine Omanyo (Busia) has asked the National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Health to explain measures being taken by the Ministry of Health and the Council of Governors to secure the future of the workers, who have been serving in public health facilities since they were recruited during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a statement sought on the floor of the House, Hon. Omanyo said about 7,414 frontline health workers have become indispensable in supplementing Kenya's public healthcare workforce but continue to serve under temporary contracts despite providing essential services across all 47 counties.

She said the workers earn a flat monthly stipend of Kshs50,000, while county-employed health workers performing similar duties receive more than Kshs100,000, creating what she described as an unfair wage disparity that is inconsistent with labour standards and the Salaries and Remuneration Commission's guidelines.

"The UHC health workers were engaged by the national government in collaboration with county governments during the Covid-19 pandemic and have continued to render services across the country under the UHC programme," she told the House.

The lawmaker further raised concern that all UHC workers' contracts expired on June 30, 2026, creating an employment crisis for thousands of healthcare workers.

She also questioned whether the workers' gratuity has been computed or secured under any national or county pension scheme, warning that the omission has exposed them to uncertainty after years of service.

Hon.Omanyo wants the Health Committee to state the measures the Ministry of Health, working with the Council of Governors, has put in place to ensure the 7,414 workers are absorbed into permanent and pensionable terms with effect from July 1, 2026.

She also sought confirmation that the national government has allocated Kshs8.9 billion through conditional grants in the 2026/27 financial year to facilitate the transition of the workers to county payrolls.



Busia Woman Representative Hon. Catherine Omanyo

Health Committee challenges research institutions to deliver products that benefit Kenyans



Health Committee Chairperson Hon. Dr. James Nyikal listens as the Vice Chairperson Hon. Patrick Munene (Chuka Igambang'ombe) makes a point during a meeting with the management of the Kenya Institute of Primate Research (KIPRE)



Health Committee Members led by the Chairperson Hon. Dr. James Nyikal are briefed by a KIPRE official at a laboratory during a guided tour of the facility

The National Assembly Departmental Committee on Health has challenged research institutions to develop innovations that improve the lives of Kenyans and address key health challenges.

The Committee, led by Chairperson Hon. Dr. James Nyikal (Seme), said research institutions should focus on translating scientific findings into products and solutions that directly benefit the public.

The Chairperson spoke during the Committee's budget oversight visit to the Kenya Institute of Primate Research (KIPRE) headquarters in Karen, Nairobi.

"Kenyans expect you to translate research into products that can change their lives. You should during a meeting with the KIPRE leadership and senior staff.

KIPRE management, led by Board Chairperson Prof. Josephat Mulimba and Director General Dr. Peter Mwethera, briefed the Committee on the institute's performance and ongoing reforms.

Among the institute's key projects is the planned rollout of an East African-specific snake antivenom. Dr. Mwethera said the product would be a landmark breakthrough expected to transform the management of snakebite envenoming across the region.

Committee Members later toured KIPRE's research laboratories and interacted with scientists working at the facility.

The Committee also conducted a budget over- (KEMRI) facility and Office Complex under construction at the Kenyatta National Hospital Complex.

The MPs later held a meeting with KEMRI management led by Board Chairperson Dr. Abdullahi Ali and Acting Director General Prof. Elijah Songok, who briefed the MPs on the institute's charter status, strategic national role and their priorities.

Hon. Dr. Nyikal reaffirmed the Committee's commitment to supporting the two institutions in their efforts to strengthen health research and innovation.

He also urged the management of both agencies to uphold financial prudence and accountability in the use of public resources.

work hard towards that goal," said Hon. Nyikal

sight visit to the Kenya Medical Research Institute

Treasury defends sugar tax waiver as MPs question import approval process



Trade Committee Chairperson Hon. Bernard Shinali chairs a session on the raw sugar importation inquiry



Trade Committee during a session with National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi over the importation of raw sugar

The Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury, John Mbadi, has defended the government's decision to grant tax waivers to Mombasa Sugar Refinery Limited (MSRL) for the importation of raw sugar, insisting the move was made in the public interest to support local industry and create jobs.

Appearing before the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Mbadi said the tax exemption was approved to facilitate the importation of raw materials needed for industrial production.

"We were convinced the raw material would boost industrialization and expand opportunities in employment," Mbadi told the Committee.

He explained that the government established an inter-agency team to monitor the imported sugar and ensure it was used strictly for industrial processing, preventing any diversion into the local market. He added that the tax waivers were granted legally and were subject to strict conditions.

However, Committee Members questioned whether adequate safeguards existed to ensure the imported sugar was processed as intended.

Hon. Marianne Kitany expressed concern that the refinery lacked sufficient controls to regulate the release of processed sugar, arguing that existing enforcement mechanisms appeared inadequate.

In response, CS Mbadi maintained that the factory had adequate processing capacity and said the multi-agency team stationed at the facility was overseeing the entire process to ensure strict compliance. He added that the Kenya Sugar Board bore the primary responsibility of supervising the handling and processing of the consignment.

Committee Chairperson Hon. Bernard Shinali emphasized that while Parliament supports investment, all investors must comply with the law.

"We encourage investments, but we must ensure we follow the law," Hon. Shinali said, adding that the Committee's inquiry seeks to establish whether all legal and regulatory procedures were followed before the sugar entered the country.

Lawmakers urged to strengthen oversight protect small business in financial sector Bills

Stakeholders have urged Members of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning to tighten Parliamentary oversight, safeguard consumers and small businesses and protect data privacy as it reviews proposed reforms to the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Microfinance Bill 2026 and the East African Development Bank (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Through oral submissions made by Price Waterhouse Coopers (pwc), KPMG, Law Society of Kenya, WeCare and Gregory Ndege & Associates, stakeholders warned that the Competition (Amendment) Bill's proposed expansion of the definition of "person" expounds the scope of entities that may be subject to investigation and enforcement under the Competition Act.

They recommended limiting the laws application to persons engaged in economic or commercial activities that have an actual or potential impact on competition, consumer welfare or market conduct.

Stakeholders also called for barring of Central Bank from publishing information revealing a subject's financial affairs without consent. They emphasized that cross border data sharing must comply with the Data Protection Act

While the Microfinance Bill 2026 seeks to repeal and replace the Microfinance Act, 2006 in order to provide a safe and sound environment for microfinance banks to meet evolving needs of consumers, stakeholders averred that some of its provisions require further careful review to ensure that the expanded powers of the Central Bank are exercised lawfully and reasonably.

Appearing before the Committee, former ambassador of Kenya to Tanzania who also once served as Kilome MP, Hon. Dr. John Mutinda urged the Committee, among other amendments to review proposed section 2 (6) of the EADB Act to remove the deemed approval default and replace it with a requirement of affirmative resolution of the National Assembly as a condition precedent to any disbursement.



Members of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning posing with stakeholders



Member of the Committee on Finance and National Planning, Kitui Rural MP. Hon. Mboni David Mwalika during the meeting

The former lawmaker also called for an amendment of proposed section 2 (3) to require independent audit to all sums disbursed to EADB in addition to the Cabinet Secretary's reporting.

"This Committee should not hang Kenyans in broad daylight by conferring diplomatic rights to the EADB. Form a select Committee, visit EADB and find out what happens to our money, who enjoys it," Hon. Dr. Mutinda told the lawmakers .

The sessional Chairperson and Kitui Rural MP, Hon. Mboni David Mwalika however challenged the former Kilome MP to explain to Kenyans what he did with regard to the matter when he served as an Ambassador.

Republic of Tanzania, what did you do in regards to the EADB and how comes Kenya isn't doing better?" Hon. Mboni posed.

In response, Hon. (Dr.)John Mutinda revealed that EADB was functioning smoothly from the year 1980 to 2009 until the Bank was granted diplomatic immunity and so cannot no longer report to the National Assembly.

Instead, the former MP urged the Committee to look into the current reporting structure of the Board that the EADB is answerable to.

While thanking the stakeholders for their input on the three Bill, the MPs acknowledged that the stakeholder submissions would assist the Committee in strengthening market regulation, enhancing consumer protection, promoting financial stability, improving public accountability while preserving regulatory certainty and avoiding unintended consequences for businesses,

the Committee, among other amendments to

"You were an Ambassador of Kenya to the

consumers and regulated institutions.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



Every time fire incidents occur in schools, public concern fades and everything returns to business as usual. This pattern has persisted for over 20 years and continues worsening. The Ministries of Education and Interior should appear before the House to present a report on ongoing investigations, including findings from the multi-sectoral team formed after the Utumishi Girls fire in Gilgil. The students involved should undergo psychiatric assessment to establish possible underlying factors. Understanding the root causes will help prevent similar incidents. We must address underlying causes instead of focusing only on symptoms."

-Hon. Gladys Boss (Uasin Gishu County)



The Ministry of Energy needs to address concerns regarding the quality of transformers installed in urban centres. Questions remain on whether the placement of electricity poles into the ground is being done professionally and why many of them are falling. The Ministry should explain whether there are adequate mechanisms to ensure proper installation. The Cabinet Secretary needs to personally address this matter, which has affected different parts of the country. Ensuring quality infrastructure is important for reliable electricity supply and protecting public investments in energy projects."

-Hon. Julius Sunkuli (Kilgoris)



Despite financial challenges in funding campaigns, it is easier to unseat men than women who hold elective office. We are good girls, raised to uphold good values, and Members of the public recognise that. I encourage my fellow women leaders to pursue development projects with confidence. Even with limited resources, we should support one another with decorum, remain resilient and continue serving our communities. Regardless of the size of a project, every initiative makes a difference. Even if some men launch projects worth Ksh.10 million and yours is worth Ksh.100,000, undertake it unapologetically because every development project benefits the community."

-Hon. Millie Mabona (Suba North)



The issue of stalled affordable housing projects in constituencies has become a concern among Members. I initially thought the problem was only in my constituency, where the contractor disappeared after being handed over the site. It is now almost one year, and no progress has been made. I have written to the Principal Secretary seeking clarification on whether the contract should be cancelled and re-advertised if the contractor lacks capacity. However, it appears the challenge is not with contractors alone, as it is unlikely that all contractors countrywide lack capability. There is a problem within the Ministry."

-Hon. Kangogo Bowen (Marakwet East)



The issue of indiscipline in schools requires a national dialogue. It calls for an approach similar to the one undertaken during the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) talks held at Bomas of Kenya. If we want to protect our communities over the next 10 or 20 years, we must prioritise this matter as a country. It cannot be handled by the Ministry of Education alone. Parents' associations and teachers' representatives must be involved. Parliament should lead a national conversation to find solutions, while the Ministry of Education provides answers to the challenges facing schools and guide future education policy decisions."

-Hon Martha Wangari (Gilgil)



We need to be careful in addressing the issue of school fires because several stakeholders are involved. We must critically examine the roles of the Ministry of Education, parents, students, and teachers. After identifying their responsibilities, we should document clear guidelines and establish enforcement mechanisms. There are gaps among stakeholders, and addressing them will help resolve this problem. This is not the first time school fires have occurred. Reports have been prepared in the past, but enforcement has remained weak. We must act decisively because this issue involves loss of lives and requires urgent intervention"

-Hon. Makali Mulu (Kitui Central)



As women leaders, we must work together to ensure more women are elected in the upcoming elections. As female parliamentarians, it is incumbent upon us to support and mentor our sisters who have expressed interest in leadership positions. Increasing the number of women elected to Parliament in the 2027 General Election will be critical to achieving the two-thirds gender principle in the 14th Parliament. If at least 40 more women are elected in 2027, we will move closer to attaining the constitutional gender threshold and strengthening inclusive representation in Parliament. We all have a collective responsibility to make this happen."

-Hon. Beatrice Elachi (Dagoretti North)



The generator serving my constituency developed a fault and was taken to Nairobi for repairs. It stayed there for one month before being returned, but after two days, the problem persisted and it was taken back again. For the past week, we have been informed that it is still being transported. This is now a critical issue. Kenya Power needs to improve its services. The House should consider ways of addressing the monopoly of Kenya Power and Lighting Company by allowing competition. Competition transformed telephone services when other providers entered the market, and similar solutions should be explored in electricity sector."

-Hon. Yusuf Adan (Mandera West)



When police recruits report for training, female recruits are turned away if they are found to be pregnant. Women will engage in relationships and may become pregnant, so we should consider family planning options during training. Investing in family planning would help address such challenges, as it is highly effective. If pregnancy occurs, the recruit should be allowed to return after delivery and continue training rather than lose the opportunity. We need to be more civilised and recognise the realities of life. Sexual relationships have consequences, including pregnancy, and we must develop fair policies that support women while maintaining standards."

-Hon. Esther Passaris (Nairobi City County)



Electricity connectivity continues to pose challenges in the country. The question remains on whether the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation or Kenya Power should procure electricity metres. The biggest challenge is not the installation of poles and power lines, but connecting households to electricity. We should ensure that projects are completed and value for money is achieved. If the Cabinet Secretary appears before the House, he should explain the availability of metres. Confusion over procurement responsibility has caused delays, leaving some projects incomplete despite being initiated due to lack of electricity metres."

-Hon. Julius Rutto (Kesses)

BUNGE MASHINANI ▸ KISUMU COUNTY

Invest more resources in boxing talent development, Hon Odinga urges government

Kisumu County MP Hon. Ruth Odinga has called on both the national and county governments to invest more resources in boxing to nurture and develop raw talent at the grassroots level.

Hon. Odinga noted that Kenya is rich in boxing talent, but inadequate support has denied many promising athletes the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

"I had the joy of watching our young boxers spar and showcase their talent during our economic empowerment initiative at Asat Beach in Seme constituency. I am convinced that the lakeside city of Kisumu is a reservoir of boxing talent," she said.

She added that if the same level of effort and resources invested in football were directed towards boxing, Kenya could achieve remarkable success in the sport.



Kisumu County MP Hon. Ruth Odinga (centre) poses for a photograph with boxers and officials after watching several boxing matches in Seme Constituency recently

JOMVU CONSTITUENCY



Hon.Twalib Badi official opening of Badi Twalib comprehensive school

Two Jomvu constituency schools benefit from infrastructural development

The education sector in Jomvu constituency has received a significant boost following the official opening of newly completed learning facilities at Badi Twalib Comprehensive School and Badi Twalib High School by area MP Hon. Badi Twalib.

At Badi Twalib Comprehensive School, a new classroom block and a modern administration block were officially commissioned by Hon. Twalib, providing pupils with a more conducive environment for learning while enhancing the school's administrative capacity.

The MP also toured Badi Twalib high School where he opened newly constructed classrooms and a twin science laboratory. The new facilities are expected to ease congestion, improve access to practical science education, and support the delivery of quality teaching and learning.

KITUI CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY

Hon. Mulu unveils completed NGCDF projects, pledges more development for Kitui Central

Kitui Central MP Hon. Makali Mulu has unveiled a list of 18 development projects completed during the 2025/2026 Financial Year through the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG- CDF), reaffirming his commitment to improving education, public administration and service delivery across the constituency.

The completed projects include the construction of modern two-storey classroom blocks comprising four classrooms each in two schools, the construction of science laboratories, rehabilitation of classrooms in several learning institutions, and the construction of two Assistant Chiefs' offices aimed at enhancing administrative services and security at the grassroots.



Hon. Makali Mulu (right), unveils the completed Ithookwe Assistant Chief's office and latrine on July 9,

SABOTI CONSTITUENCY



Hon. Amisi gets a feel of the new school bus presented to Masinde Muliro Memorial Senior School

Saboti MP hands over new school bus, reaffirms commitment to education development

Saboti MP Hon. Caleb Amisi last week handed over a brand-new school bus to Masinde Muliro Senior School in Tuwan Ward, in a move aimed at enhancing learners' mobility and supporting the school's academic and co-curricular programmes.

The handover of the bus forms part of the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) initiatives being implemented in Saboti constituency to strengthen the education sector and improve learning opportunities for students.

Addressing parents, teachers, students and local leaders during the event, Hon. Amisi reiterated his commitment to accelerating development across the constituency through strategic investments under the NG-CDF.



CLIQUE & CLICKS



From right: Hon. Irene Mayaka, Hon. Jerusha Momanyi and Hon. Doris Donya engage in discussion during a break at the Women's Economic Empowerment workshop



Health Committee Chairperson Hon. Dr. James Nyikal (Seme) flanked by Members of the House team and Pharmacy and Poisons Board Top management listen as member of staff demonstrates how gadget used to test the authenticity of medical drugs works.



A group photo of Members of Parliament, Secretariat and stakeholders during the Women's Economic Empowerment workshop organized by KEWOPA in partnership with the Institute of Public Finance.



Health Committee Vice Chairperson, Hon. Patrick Munene (Chuka/Igambang'ombe) [second from left) and Members Hon. Duncan Mathenge (Nyeri Town) and Anthony Kibagendi (Kitutu Chache South) arriving at the Kenya Institute of Primate Research in Karen, Nairobi for an a fact-finding visit.

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MPs question NTSA instant-fine system over fairness, public awareness

Members of Parliament have questioned the implementation of the National Transport and Safety Authority's (NTSA) automated instant-fine system, citing concerns over inadequate public awareness, insufficient road signage and the fairness of the enforcement mechanism.

Starehe MP Hon. Amos Mwago sought a statement from the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure, demanding an explanation on how the system is being rolled out and the safeguards put in place to protect motorists.

Speaking on the floor of the House, Hon. Mwago said the recently introduced automated enforcement system, which uses surveillance cameras to detect traffic offences and issue instant fines, had generated widespread public concern despite its objective of improving road safety.

He noted that while the system is intended to enhance compliance with traffic laws, reduce road crashes and facilitate swift enforcement without lengthy court processes,



Starehe MP Hon. Amos Mwago

many motorists were questioning whether they had been adequately informed before its implementation.

The legislator asked the Committee to provide evidence that clear and visible speed-limit signs and other traffic signage had been installed on all roads covered by the instant-fine system and that motorists had been sufficiently sensitised on how it operates.

"The implementation of the system has generated considerable public concern regarding the adequacy of public sensitisation, the presence and visibility of speed-limit signage, the fairness of the enforcement process, and the mechanisms available for motorists to challenge fines issued through the automated system," Hon. Mwago said.

Molo MP Hon. Kuria Kimani backed the request, arguing that the current system punishes vehicle owners instead of the drivers responsible for traffic violations.

Hon. Kimani said attaching fines to a vehicle's logbook fails to deter reckless drivers, particularly for commercial vehicles such as taxis and ride-hailing cars whose owners may not be behind the wheel when offences are committed.

He proposed that traffic penalties be linked to drivers' licences instead of vehicle registration records so that the actual offenders bear responsibility.

"For example, if I have 10 vehicles that I use as Uber vehicles and the drivers drive them dangerously, they are fined. However, the fine ends up on the logbook of the particular vehicle, so it does not deter the behaviour of that driver," he said.

Parliament Debates the Draft Constitution That Shaped Kenya's Constitutional Journey

This week in history

On 21 July 2005, the National Assembly convened for one of the most significant constitutional debates in Kenya's history as Members resumed deliberations on the Report of the Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) on the Review of the Constitution of Kenya.

The House debated a Motion moved by then Energy Minister Hon. Simeon Nyachae seeking approval of the Committee's report and recommending that the Attorney-General publish the Constitution of Kenya Bill, 2005 popularly known as the Wako Draft.

Members examined key issues that would shape Kenya's governance, including



The official swearing-in ceremony for Members of Parliament (MPs) of the 9th Parliament of Kenya

the structure of the Executive, the role of Parliament, judicial independence, citizenship, the Bill of Rights, devolution, and constitutional commissions. The debate reflected Parliament's efforts to bridge differences that had emerged during the Bomas constitutional process while advancing democratic reforms and accountability.

Although the proposed Constitution was rejected in the 21 November 2005 referendum, the parliamentary deliberations proved pivotal. Many of the ideas debated—including devolution, an expanded Bill of Rights, independent constitutional commissions, and stronger checks and balances—were later refined and incorporated into the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

The proceedings of 21 July 2005 remain a defining moment in Kenya's constitutional history, underscoring the National Assembly's central role in shaping the country's democratic and constitutional evolution.

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