State targets to issue 3 Million ID Cards by end of year, Committee told Back Page ▸

Social Protection Committee pushes for stronger enforcement of Disability Rights Page 7 ▸

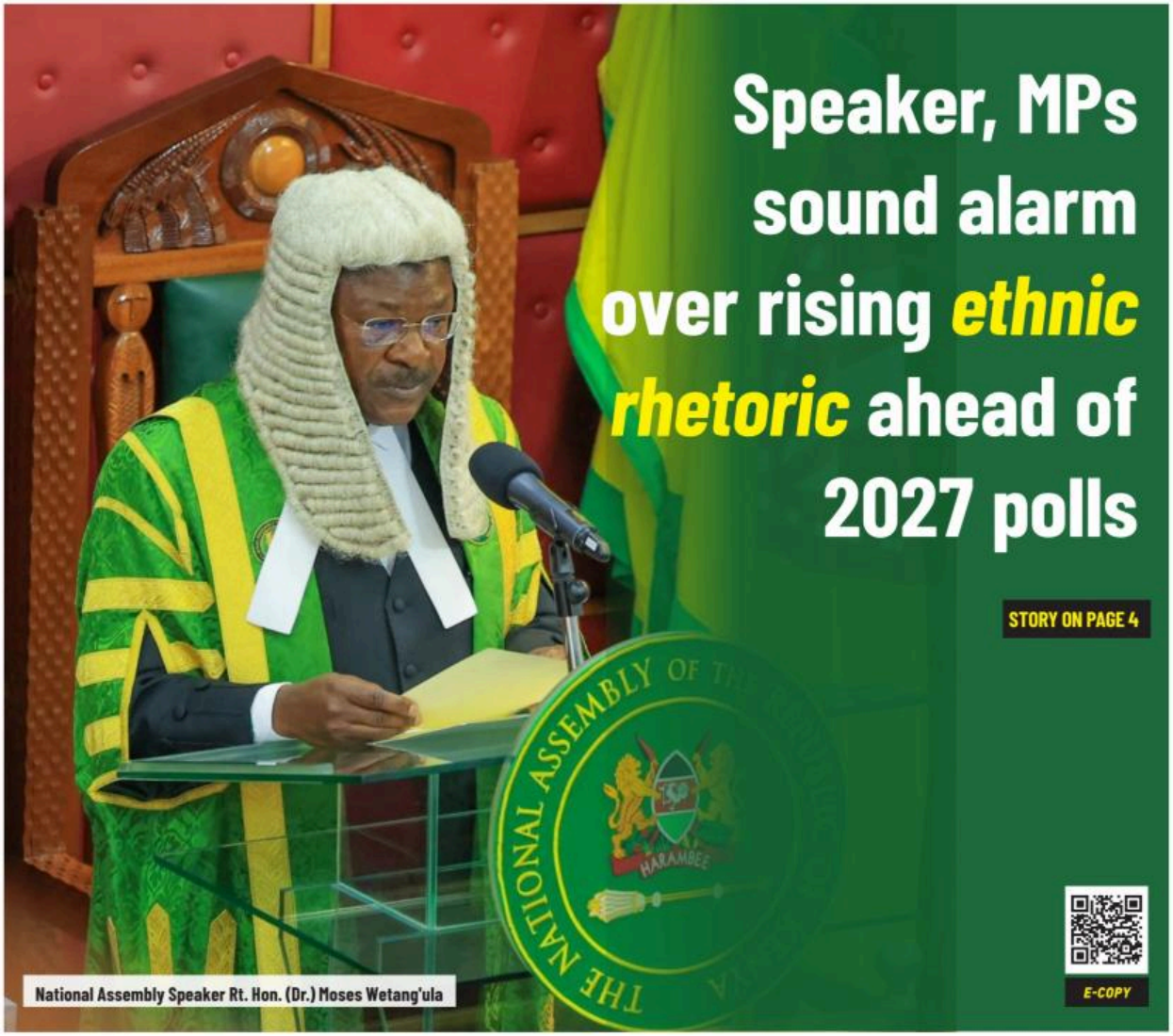
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BUNGE Weekly

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

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Monday, August 10th, 2026 to Monday, August 17th, 2026



Speaker, MPs sound alarm over rising *ethnic rhetoric* ahead of 2027 polls

STORY ON PAGE 4

National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula

E-COPY

House passes County Funding Bill bolstering community health promoters, universal healthcare and affordable housing

Community Health Promoters (CHPs) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) workers stand to benefit after the National Assembly approved the County Governments Additional Allocations Bill (Senate Bill No. 8 of 2026), unlocking Ksh71.1 billion in additional funding for county gov-



File Photo: The National Assembly in session

TURN TO PAGE 2

PLENARY

Speaker calls for stronger internal audit oversight to curb graft



Speaker Hon. Moses Wetang'ula, MPs and members of the Institute of Internal Auditors-Kenya pose for a photograph after a meeting

National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula has said that weak internal audit systems remain a major obstacle in the fight against corruption in the public sector.

Hon. Wetang'ula noted that unscrupulous traders exploit weaknesses in internal audit systems to siphon public resources through procurement processes.

"While I appreciate the work internal auditors do to safeguard public resources, in some instances they inadvertently aid graft by focusing too much on ensuring procurement procedures are followed while overlooking the loss of millions of shillings through inflated prices," said Hon. Wetang'ula.

The Speaker made the remarks during a meeting with a delegation from the Institute of Internal Auditors–Kenya, led by its Chairperson, CPA Ms. Lillian Wangechi Mwangi, who paid him a courtesy call at his office.

The delegation sought the National Assembly's support for the proposed Internal Auditors Bill that aims at anchoring the internal audit profession in law,to strengthen professional independence, and to promote robust governance standards across both the public and private sectors.

Hon. Wetang'ula referred the proposed Bill to the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning and directed its Chairperson, Hon. Kuria Kimani to ensure thorough scrutiny



Speaker Hon. Moses Wetang'ula receives a gift from chairperson Institute of Internal Auditors-Kenya CPA Ms Lillian Wangechi Mwangi in his office.

of the draft legislation before it is fast-tracked for consideration.

He emphasized that the procurement sector has become a major avenue through which unscrupulous suppliers defraud public institutions of billions of shillings.

The Speaker further urged internal auditors, as custodians of accountability and good governance, to remain vigilant in detecting and preventing corruption within public institutions.

"As gatekeepers, you must not allow public resources to be stolen," he said.

Hon. Wetang'ula assured Members of the Institute of the National Assembly's commitment to supporting reforms that strengthen the internal audit profession and enhance accountability in the management of public resources.

Hon. Kuria Kimani commended the Institute for championing reforms through legislation.

"We have walked this journey with the Institute from 2023. I will table the Bill before the Committee to commence the necessary legislative process, as advised by the Speaker," he said.

Ms. Mwangi thanked the Speaker for hosting the delegation and for assuring them of the National Assembly's support for the proposed legislation.

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ernments during the 2026/27 financial year.

The legislation sets aside Ksh8.61 billion to transition UHC workers to permanent and pensionable terms, addressing one of the long-standing concerns in the health sector. It also allocates Ksh3.23 billion to support Community Health Promoters, reinforcing primary healthcare services across the 47 counties.

The Bill further earmarks Ksh365.99 million equivalent to 0.5 per cent of the Housing Levy Fund, for County Rural and Urban Affordable Housing Committees, while Ksh525 million has been allocated for the construction of county headquarters in Nyandarua, Isiolo, Tana River, Lamu and Tharaka Nithi.

The Bill incorporated amendments proposed by the Budget and Appropriations Committee, chaired by Hon. Samuel Atandi, paving the way for counties to receive additional conditional allocations from both the national government and development partners.

Under the approved framework, Ksh12.73 billion will be disbursed as conditional allocations from the national government's share of revenue, representing an increase of Ksh2.75 billion, or



Budget and Appropriations Committee Chairperson by Hon. Samuel Atandi

27.5 per cent, from the Ksh9.98 billion allocated in the 2025/26 financial year.

In addition, counties will receive Ksh56.38 billion in conditional allocations financed through loans and grants from development partners to support critical programmes in healthcare, agriculture, climate resilience, urban infrastructure, water, sanitation and devolution.

Members also approved a new Third Schedule ring-fencing conditional allocations financed through development partners. The schedule provides a county-by-county breakdown of funding for programmes supported by institutions including the World Bank, the French Development Agency (AfD), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Germany's KfW.

The allocations will finance key programmes such as the Kenya Urban Support Programme, Financing Locally-Led Climate Action (FLLoCA), the Kenya Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme (K-WASH), the Food Systems Resilience Project, the National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project and the Second Kenya Devolution Support Programme.

With the Bill now approved by the National Assembly, county governments are expected to receive additional resources to strengthen healthcare delivery, accelerate affordable housing initiatives, enhance climate resilience, improve urban infrastructure and support agricultural transformation, further advancing the objectives of devolution during the 2026/27 financial year.

Lawmakers at odds over Bill seeking to empower NTSA to regulate matatu fares

Lawmakers have expressed differing opinions over a proposed law seeking to empower the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) to regulate public transport fares, with supporters arguing it would shield commuters from arbitrary fare hikes while critics insisted the Government must first improve roads and security.

The National Transport and Safety Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023, sponsored by Kimilili MP Didmus Barasa, seeks to give NTSA powers to approve fares charged by public service vehicles.

Moving the Bill for Second Reading, Hon. Barasa said commuters were routinely exploited by matatu operators who raise fares during rainy weather, peak hours and festive seasons.



Kimilili MP Hon. Didmus Barasa

"The role of Parliament is to identify the problems affecting Kenyans and enact laws that lessen or eliminate them. One such problem is that public service vehicle operators charge fares at their own discretion because they are not regulated," he said.

The MP said Kenya was among the few countries without fare regulation, adding that commuters should not face unpredictable charges.

Kesses MP Julius Rutto backed the Bill, saying unpredictable fares disproportionately hurt low-income earners.

Tigania West MP John Mutunga said operators quickly increase fares when fuel prices rise but rarely reduce them when prices fall.

However, Bumula MP Wanami Wamboka argued that regulation alone would not solve the problem.

"I support the idea, but there is broader stakeholder engagement that is needed. Government should first provide proper roads, healthcare and security before becoming prefect over everything," he said, adding that poor infrastructure and insecurity had driven up transport costs.

Dagoretti North MP Beatrice Elachi supported the Bill but urged comprehensive reforms, including displaying fares at termini and establishing a toll-free complaints line.

The Bill now proceeds to the next stage of parliamentary consideration amid competing views on whether fare regulation would protect commuters or merely impose controls without addressing the sector's underlying challenges.

> "I support the idea, but there is broader stakeholder engagement that is needed. Government should first provide proper roads, healthcare and security before becoming prefect over everything," he said, adding that poor infrastructure and insecurity had driven up transport costs.

MPs back Bill to make Parliament Library a knowledge hub

Members of Parliament have backed the **Books and Newspapers (Amendment) Bill, 2025**, saying it will strengthen Kenya's knowledge base and improve public access to published information.

Moving the Bill in the House, Broadcasting and Library Committee Chairperson and Turkana West MP Daniel Nanok said the proposed law seeks to update the **Books and Newspapers Act (Cap. 111)**, which was enacted in 1960 before Kenya attained independence.

Mr Nanok said the Bill will require all published works to be deposited in the Parliamentary Library, helping preserve the country's published records.

"The Bill also removes outdated references to the 'colony' and replaces them with 'Kenya'," he said.

He added that the proposed law recognises modern publishing by allowing both printed and digital copies of publications to be deposited.

If passed, publishers will be required to submit three copies of every publication to the Clerk of the Senate within 14 days of publication, at their own cost. They will also continue depositing copies with the Registrar of Books and Newspapers and the Kenya National Library Service.

Seconding the Bill, Limuru MP and Committee Vice-Chairperson John Kiragu said the changes will ensure books and newspapers published in Kenya are properly preserved while embracing advances in information technology.



The Chairperson for Broadcasting and Library Committee and Turkana West MP, Hon. Daniel Epuyo Nanok chairing a Committee meeting in Parliament Buildings.

He said the Parliamentary Library has become an important source of information for students, researchers and Members of the public, making it necessary to strengthen its collection.

MPs from both sides of the House supported the Bill, describing it as a timely reform that will modernise an outdated law and improve Parliament's institutional memory.

They said the reforms should be supported by better digital infrastructure, wider public access to Parliamentary publications and continued investment in library services across the country.

However, some lawmakers proposed changes to the Bill. They called for the removal of a proposed Sh1 million fine for small publishers who fail to deposit copies of their publications. Others urged the Bill to recognise multimedia journalism and include stronger provisions on copyright and intellectual property rights.

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Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula and Members of Parliament have warned against rising ethnic profiling and inflammatory political rhetoric, saying divisive statements could undermine national cohesion and threaten peaceful preparations for the 2027 General Election.

The concerns were raised during a House sitting after Lamu East MP Ruweida Mohamed sought a Statement from the Chairperson of the Select Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity on the enforcement of laws against political leaders accused of making inflammatory remarks at public rallies.

Speaker Wetang'ula urged leaders across the political divide to exercise restraint, saying Kenya's diversity should be celebrated rather than exploited for political gain.

"As we head towards the elections, let us all lower our political temperatures. Bellicose statements and unhelpful rhetoric cannot help this country," he said.

Drawing on Kenya's political history, Wetang'ula noted that leaders from minority communities, including Basil Criticos, Philip Leakey, Satish Gautama and the late Dr Swarup Mishra, were elected by voters from different ethnic backgrounds, demonstrating that leadership should be based on merit rather than ethnicity.

He also cited former US President Barack Obama and former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak as examples of leaders who transcended racial and ethnic barriers.

Ms Mohamed expressed concern over politicians urging communities to reject leaders perceived as outsiders despite having lived peacefully among them for generations. She questioned what action the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) had taken against individuals accused of promoting hate speech and ethnic discrimination.

She also sought details on measures the Commission has put in place to monitor political rallies, document incidents of hate speech and work with other agencies to enforce the law.

Citing Lamu as an example of peaceful coexistence, she rejected narratives that elective positions should be reserved for particular ethnic communities.

North Imenti MP Rahim Dawood said he had recently been targeted through ethnic profiling after a politician urged voters not to elect him because of his Indian descent despite him and his family having deep roots in Meru County.

"I have been elected four times. I was born there, and my mother was born there in 1937," he said, warning that such rhetoric undermines every Kenyan's constitutional right to seek elective office anywhere in the country.

Dawood questioned the effectiveness of NCIC, arguing that hate speech investigations should be strengthened to deter offenders before the next General Election.

Eldas MP Adan Keynan called for equal enforcement of the law, saying tribalism and regionalism have no place in modern Kenya. He urged Parliament to demand a comprehensive report on action taken against those promoting ethnic division.

Dagoretti South MP John Kiarie and Mombasa Woman Representative Zamzam Mohammed said every Kenyan has the constitutional right to contest elective office anywhere in the country, while Jomvu MP Bady Twalib urged leaders to focus on development instead of ethnic politics.

Members from both the Kenya Kwanza and Opposition sides of the House united in condemning hate speech and called on NCIC, police and other agencies to enforce existing laws impartially to safeguard national unity ahead of the 2027 elections.

MPs pile pressure on Treasury over delayed teachers' pension payment

Members of Parliament have demanded urgent reforms to Kenya's pension administration system, accusing government agencies of forcing retired teachers into years of financial hardship through delayed payment of retirement benefits.

Contributing to a statement sought by Kitutu Chache South MP Hon. Antony Kibagendi, lawmakers called on the National Treasury and the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) to eliminate bureaucratic bottlenecks and ensure pension benefits are paid immediately upon retirement.

Hon. Kibagendi said thousands of retired teachers continue to suffer despite dedicating their lives to educating Kenyans.

"Instead of enjoying a dignified retirement, many are subjected to financial hardships as they wait for months and, in some instances, years for benefits they earned through decades of dedicated public service," he said.

He claimed some retirees and families of deceased teachers had been asked to pay bribes to facilitate pension processing, leaving many unable to meet daily expenses, access healthcare or support dependants.

Hon. Kibagendi sought answers on the number of retirees awaiting payment, outstanding pension liabilities, causes of delays and measures to clear the backlog.

Nominated MP Hon. Dorothy Muthoni said retirement is predictable and pensions should be planned in advance.

"It is high time pensioners are treated as citizens of this country and recognised for their patriotism and service. Pensioners should receive what is due to them immediately upon retirement," she said.

Saku MP Hon. Ali Raso said pensions should be treated as a legal right rather than a favour.

"The retirement dates of all public officers are known. The purpose of a pension is to enable retirees to maintain a reasonable standard of living and decency," he said.

Njoro MP Charity Chepkwony lamented that some teachers die before receiving their dues, forcing families into hardship, while Bondo MP Gideon Ochanda proposed that pension processing should begin well before retirement to eliminate delays.

Mandera West MP Yusuf Adan said teachers across the country continue to plead for their pensions, with some struggling to educate their children.

Responding on behalf of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning, committee chairperson Julius Rutto assured MPs that the issue would be investigated urgently.

"There is no need for traditional bureaucracy to delay teachers interests. Anyone who has served this nation should retire with dignity, not return to the streets," he said.



File Photo: Kitutu Chache South MP Hon. Antony Kibagendi

https://pubhtml5.com/spbae/cnvj/ 6/23

COMMITTEES' ROUND-UP

Legislators question understaffing, Budget cuts at NEA regional offices



Cohesion Committee chairman Hon Yussuf Adan Haji (far right) chairing a meeting with National Employment Authority (NEA) Director General.



Committee chairman Hon. Yussuf Haji (Mandera West)

The National Assembly Committee on Cohesion and Equal Opportunities has raised concerns over understaffing and budget cuts affecting the National Employment Authority's (NEA) regional offices.

The Committee, chaired by Hon. Adan Yusuf Haji, voiced its concerns during a meeting with the Authority's Director General, Mrs. Edith Okoki. Members noted that some regional offices are staffed by only one officer, making it difficult for them to effectively discharge their mandate.

"The idea of opening regional offices was aimed at ensuring efficiency in service delivery, but this objective has been undermined by staff shortages and inadequate funding," said the Mandera West MP.

Mrs. Okoki informed the Committee that the Authority's regional offices currently have between one and six staff Members.

"In our budget, we allocate KSh 75,000 to each office to support its official operations," she said.

However, MPs observed that the situation at the regional offices supports claims that the Authority has neglected its regional presence. They urged the Authority to review the funding allocated to the offices to enable them to operate effectively.

Mwingi North MP Hon. Paul Nzengu questioned why the Authority had not established an office in his constituency, noting that the existing regional offices are overstretched due to inadequate staffing.

In response, Mrs. Okoki told the Committee that the Authority had requested an additional 90 staff Members in the next recruitment exercise. However, MPs maintained that the proposed recruitment would still be insufficient to address the staffing shortages.

The Committee also questioned why the Authority had failed to comply with the legal requirement to ensure that at least five percent of its workforce comprises Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

Mrs. Okoki informed the Committee that only 1.5 percent of the Authority's current staff are Persons with Disabilities.

Her assurance that the Authority intended to meet the legal threshold during the next recruitment exercise was dismissed by MPs, led by Hon. Yussuf Hassan, who argued that the plan was unrealistic and urged the Authority to take immediate steps to comply with the law.

Education Committee reviews proposed sector reform Bills



Tinderet MP and Chairperson of the Committee on Education, Hon. Julius Melly, chairs a meeting with officials from the Ministry of Education



Cabinet Secretary for Education Julius Ogamba makes his presentation to the Committee on Education

The National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Education has commenced a consultative review of proposed education reform Bills arising from the Report of the Presidential Working Party on Education Reform, with a focus on aligning the proposed laws with the existing legal and policy framework while assessing their financial implications.

Chaired by Hon. Julius Melly (Tinderet), the Committee met with the Ministry of Education, led by Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba, to scrutinize the proposed legislative changes, on the Tertiary Education Placement and Funding Bill, the Basic Education (Amendment) Bill, the Kenya National Educational Assessment Council (Amendment) Bill and the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (Amendment) Bill.

A key proposal under the Tertiary Education Placement and Funding Bill is the consolidation of the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), the Universities Fund Board and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Funding Board into a single entity, the Tertiary Education Funding Authority (TEFA).

The proposed Authority will oversee all aspects of higher education financing, including student loans and scholarships, with the aim of streamlining funding and improving efficiency.

The Bill also introduces a unified funding framework based on means testing, where financial support will be determined by factors such as a student's financial ability, special needs, affirmative action considerations and the cost of the programme.

It further provides for education loans to minors admitted to tertiary institutions and outlines the processes for funding applications, loan disbursement, scholarships and loan recovery, including from beneficiaries residing outside the country.

The Committee also considered amendments to the Basic Education Act, which Seek to formally recognise heads of institutions and clearly define their roles as agents of the Principal Secretary for Basic Education in the implementation of education policies and programmes.

According to the proposal, the Board will have the flexibility to establish committees and panels whenever necessary to support the discharge of its mandate.

The Committee is set to continue engaging stakeholders before making its recommendations to the House.

Petitions Committee puts National Treasury on the spot over rising public debt and revenue mobilization

The Public Petitions Committee has challenged the National Treasury over Kenya's rising public debt, demanding accountability on measures to boost domestic revenue collection and reduce reliance on borrowing.

The Committee raised the concerns during a meeting with the Director General of the Public Debt Management Office at the National Treasury, Mr. Raphael Owino, who appeared to respond to Public Petition No. 10 of 2026 on strengthening oversight, transparency and intergenerational equity in public debt governance.

Mr. Owino said the Treasury has substantially addressed the issues raised in the petition. However, he acknowledged the need to improve public communication by making debt management information more accessible to Kenyans, even as the Treasury continues to hold Pre Budget Public Forums during the preparation of the Budget Policy Statement (BPS) and the Medium Term Debt Management Strategy (MTDS).

Committee Chairperson Hon. Muchangi Karemba (Runyenjes) sought the Treasury's assessment of the country's debt position, noting concerns raised by young petitioners and the Controller of Budget over continued borrowing.

"When the young people appeared before us, they said they do not want the government to acquire debt at the expense of the future generation. The Controller of Budget also informed us that every year we borrow more. What is your take on our current situation? Because the feeling out there is that indeed we are not in a good space?" asked Hon. Karemba.

Mr. Owino acknowledged that Kenya's debt levels remain high but assured Members that the Treasury is implementing measures to improve debt sustainability.

"We cannot say that we are in a very safe space as far as the debt is concerned, because the level of debt remains very high. We are doing what it takes to make sure we get the country out of that unsafe space," he said, adding that liability management operations introduced since 2024 are helping refinance expensive debt and reduce debt servicing costs.

He added that the Government is prioritising the digitisation of revenue collection to improve tax compliance and strengthen domestic revenue mobilisation. He noted that the Kenya Revenue Authority is modernising its systems to capture all sectors of the economy, including digital businesses, while working with institutions such as Kenya Power and the NSSF to identify property owners and income earners who should be brought into the tax net.



Committee Chairperson Hon. Muchangi Karemba poses a question during the meeting with officials from the National Treasury



Members of the Public Petitions Committee during a meeting with the Director General of the Public Debt Management Office at the National Treasury, Mr. Raphael Owino

Committee backs proposal to protect revenue collected by public health facilities

The National Assembly Departmental Committee on Health has backed a legislative proposal to protect revenue generated by public health facilities and ensure it is used to improve patient care and support facility operations.

The Committee, chaired by Hon. Dr. James Nyikal (Seme), said the Facilities Improvement Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2026, is timely and will strengthen the management of health facility funds.

The Bill, sponsored by Hon. Martin Owino (Ndhiwa), seeks to eliminate duplication and inconsistencies between national and county laws governing facility improvement financing.

It proposes that national law take precedence over county legislation in the management of Facility Improvement Funds to promote uniformity, predictability, and effective implementation.

In the Memorandum of Objects and Reasons, Hon. Owino, who is also a member of the Committee, argues that the National Facilities Improvement Financing Act comprehensively addresses the management of Facility Improvement Funds.

"Therefore, there is no need for counties to enact their own county laws," states Hon. Owino.

Speaking during a session at which the Committee considered and adopted its report on pre-publication scrutiny of the legislative proposal, Hon. Dr. Nyikal said the amendment would strengthen the health sector.

"The proposed amendment Bill is very important and will restore sanity to the key health sector," he said.

In its report, the Committee noted that Facility Improvement Funds are intended to help public health facilities cover their operational and maintenance costs.

It was observed that although the National Facilities Improvement Financing Act was enacted in 2023 to provide a legal framework for the management of the funds, some counties continue to rely on their own laws that conflict with the national legislation.

As part of the pre-publication scrutiny process, the Committee received submissions from the Office of the Attorney-General and the Department of Justice, the Kenya Law Reform Commission, the Ministry of Health, and the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA).



Committee on Health Chairperson Hon. Dr. James Nyikal at the meeting that considered and adopted the report on the pre-publication scrutiny of the Facilities Improvement Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2026.



Hon. Martin Owino (Ndhiwa) at a past meeting of the Committee on Health. He is the sponsor of the Facilities Improvement Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Social Protection Committee pushes for stronger enforcement of disability rights

The Committee on Social Protection has called for stronger enforcement of disability rights and greater accountability by public institutions in implementing the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025.

In a session chaired by Hon. Edith Nyenze last Tuesday, the Committee met with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities to scrutinize the status of disability mainstreaming and implementation of the new law.

MPs sought clarity on measures taken against public and private institutions that fail to comply with requirements on accessibility, employment and reasonable accommodation. They particularly questioned whether disability mainstreaming could be incorporated into Government performance contracting to ensure institutions have measurable targets against which their compliance can be assessed.

Hon. Nyenze sought clarification on the Council's enforcement powers, particularly against institutions that fail to provide accessible buildings and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities.



Hon. Susan Ngugi (Tharaka Nithi) speaks during the meeting on Tuesday, August 4th, 2026 at Bunge Tower. Listening in session chair Hon. Edith Nyenze.

The Council explained that the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025, provides for penalties for non-compliance, while the proposed adjustment-order regulations will strengthen the Council's enforcement role.

On the implementation of the Act itself, the Council reported that four sets of regulations are at various stages of development. These cover registration of persons with disabilities, adjustment orders, income tax exemptions for persons with disabilities, and income tax exemptions for parents and guardians.

The Council told the Committee that the regulatory process is expected to include public participation across the 47 counties before the regulations are subjected to legal review and subsequently tabled before the National Assembly for scrutiny.

However, the Council reported a Sh12.2 million funding gap in the process, with the estimated cost of completing the regulations standing at Sh19.2 million against an allocation of Sh7 million for the financial year.

NCPWD Chief Executive Officer Dr Michael Munene said the Council was exploring partnerships with development partners, civil society organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities to bridge the deficit.

The Committee commended the NCPWD for progress made in implementing the Act and urged the Council to sustain its efforts while ensuring that disability mainstreaming is backed by measurable accountability, adequate resources and effective enforcement.

Committee receives stakeholder input on Films and Stage Plays (Amendment) Bill, 2026



Committee Members from L-R, Hon. Charles Nguna (Mwingi West) and Hon. Richard Yegon (Bomet East)



Council of Governors CEO, Ms.Mary Mwiti and her team during the engagement

The Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB) now wants the Committee on Sports and Culture to reject the Films and Stage Plays (Amendment) Bill, 2026, and instead fast-track the Creative Economy Bill, 2025, which they say will comprehensively address current regulatory and operational gaps.

The Films and Stage Plays (Amendment) Bill, 2026, sponsored by the Leader of the Majority, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, aims to amend the Film and Stage Plays Act, Cap 222, to dissolve the KFCB and revert the functions performed by the Board to the relevant Ministry.

Appearing before the Committee for a stakeholders' engagement on the Bill, the Board acting Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Nelly Oluoch, urged Members to support the Board's unconditional retention as an independent statutory agency.

"This independent status is crucial if KFCB is to effectively execute its extensive statutory mandate, which aligns with the protection of children and vulnerable Members of society from exposure to inappropriate or harmful content and with the facilitation of growth of the creative economy in the country," the CEO told the Committee during the session chaired by Hon. Stephen Mule (Matungulu).

According to the Board, a more appropriate approach is to strengthen and expand the mandate of the existing regulatory agency through legislative reforms that address identified regulatory and operational gaps while maintaining its fiscal sustainability by pursuing new areas of revenue generation.

The Council of Governors through the CEO, Ms. Mary Mwiti also made their submissions on the Bill, stating that the Bill does not resolve the fundamental constitutional issue relating to the assignment of function between the two levels of government.

"The proposed amendments therefore merely replace the KFCB with the Cabinet Secretary and public officers in the ministry. This means that the National Government continues to retain the implementation of functions that constitutionally belong to county government. This perpetuates the constitutional misalignment and does not correct it," Ms. Mwiti said.

CAK, KECOBO, the Kenya Film Commission, Kenya Law Reforms, the Film Global Actors and Producers OAG, and other stakeholders also presented their submissions to the Committee on the proposed amendment.

Reacting to the submission Hon. Mule reassured the stakeholders that the Committee will objectively carry out its mandate and consider all their proposals and recommendations.

Finance Committee seeks binding safeguards for farmers, competitors in proposed Asahi-EABL Merger

The Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning met has sought assurances that the proposed acquisition of East African Breweries PLC (EABL) by Japan's Asahi Group Holdings, will not undermine market competition or prejudice the interests of local farmers, distributors, employees, and consumers.

The Committee Members were speaking during an engagement with the Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK) on the matter on Friday August 7, 2026.

During the meeting, Members sought assurances that the transaction would not undermine market competition or prejudice the interests of local farmers, distributors, employees, and consumers.

The Committee Members led by the Chairpeson Hon. Kuria Kimani further questioned the Authority on the specific safeguards being instituted to protect stakeholders following the ownership transition.

"We must ensure that farmers, distributors and employees are not left vulnerable once this transaction is concluded. These protections must be backed by enforceable contractual commitments," Chairperson Hon. Kuria Kimani said.



Committee Chairperson Hon. Kuria Kimani during the meeting.

Hon . Kuria also directed the Authority to submit a Kenya-specific valuation of the transaction and documentary evidence of the proposed stakeholder safeguards within seven days.

Responding to these concerns, CAK Director-General David Kemei assured Members that existing contracts with sorghum and millet farmers, distributors, and employees would remain binding and fully honoured, adding that the Authority will continuously monitor compliance with all merger conditions.

The lawmakers also sought clarification on measures to prevent smaller beverage manufacturers from being edged out of the retail market.

The Authority explained that it had proposed a key condition requiring the merged entity to reserve at least 20 per cent of shelf space in major retail outlets for competing brands to safeguard fair competition and consumer choice.

The Committee further inquired about the financial safeguards accompanying the transaction.

In response, CAK informed Members that the merging parties would be required to establish a dedicated financial reserve equivalent to four per cent of the total transaction value to cover third-party liabilities and legal claims arising after the merger's completion.

The meeting also reviewed ongoing enforcement actions involving EABL and deliberated on proposed amendments to the Competition Act aimed at strengthening Kenya's competition framework while promoting innovation, investment, and fair market practices.

Speaker backs sugar farmers, warns against reckless imports



National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula, accompanied by Members of the National Assembly, meets officials of the Kenya National Federation of Sugarcane Farmers, led by Chairman Ezra Okoth and Secretary General Kilion Osur, at Parliament Buildings



Kenya National Federation of Sugarcane Farmers officials led by Chairman Ezra Okoth representing sugarcane farmers from across the country during a meeting at Parliament Buildings.

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula has assured sugarcane farmers that Parliament will protect sugar-sector reforms and oppose any laws that undermine farmers' rights.

Speaking at a meeting with officials of the Kenya National Federation of Sugarcane Farmers, led by Chairman Ezra Okoth and Secretary General Kilion Osur, at the Parliament Buildings, Wetang'ula said lawmakers would support measures to strengthen farmers and safeguard recent gains in reviving the industry.

The Speaker also raised concerns about rising sugar imports, warning that they threaten local millers and delay payments to farmers.

"I did not hear you mention reckless sugar imports, which are choking our local sugar industry," he said, noting that when imported sugar floods the market, locally produced sugar goes unsold, leaving millers unable to pay farmers, workers, and other expenses.

Wetang'ula urged the federation to champion stricter controls on illegal and excessive sugar imports, saying ongoing reforms should enable Kenya to meet its domestic sugar demand within a year.

He also pledged to work with MPs to ensure that no legislation weakens the industry or takes away farmers' rights, while supporting the planned elections of farmer representatives to the Kenya Sugar Board.

Federation Secretary General Kilion Osur opposed provisions in the Crops Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, that sought to replace elections for growers' directors with appointments. He said farmers had already agreed with the Ministry of Agriculture to hold elections on September 5, 2026, making the amendment unnecessary.

"We want directors elected, not appointed. The Sugar Act is very clear on this," Osur said.

He also opposed proposals to channel the Sugar Development Levy through the Commodities Fund, arguing that sugarcane farmers need a dedicated financing mechanism because the crop takes up to two years to mature. He said previous attempts to route the funds through the Agricultural Finance Corporation had failed because the lending conditions were unsuitable.

The federation further accused private investors of sponsoring court cases to delay elections for growers' representatives and sought recognition as the official national umbrella body for sugarcane farmers.

Several MPs backed the farmers' proposals. Tinderet MP Julius Melly opposed government interference in farmers' organizations and called for better sharing of revenue from sugar by-products, including ethanol, electricity, and molasses.

Tigania West MP John Mutunga also opposed transferring the Sugar Development Levy to the Commodities Fund, arguing that it would restrict farmers' access to affordable financing and weaken institutions that support the sugar industry.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



As the country approaches the 2027 General Election period, political activities and campaigns are expected to intensify. However, it is deeply concerning that some political leaders continue making inflammatory statements that threaten national unity. Such utterances undermine peaceful coexistence and may incite contempt, hatred, hostility, discrimination, or violence against individuals or communities based on ethnicity, political affiliation, or regional origin. Notably, inflammatory remarks have targeted cosmopolitan communities, urging locals to shun non-locals despite longstanding coexistence. Some of these perpetrators have dared the National Cohesion and Integration Commission and other relevant agencies to summon and arrest them."

- Hon. Ruweida Mohamed (Lamu East)



"As leaders, it is important that we research what we want to say and consider how we say it because this country belongs to us all. If it collapses, it collapses with all of us. We can play politics, and it is important that we do so. However, we must be careful with our utterances because they can attract the attention of the international community. We have to step back, reflect and retool before we make any adverse assertions as leaders. I advise leaders to avoid sensational communication, which can have emotive consequences. The 2007/2008 post-election violence resulted from such careless pronouncements by leaders."

- Hon. Jared Okello (Nyando)



"In future, county governments should submit budgets specifying the projects they will undertake using these funds to ensure an audit trail. The money should be ring-fenced for those projects. Funds allocated for urbanization must improve roads within towns, and those roads should be visible. Money meant for health facilities should be used to buy equipment or employ additional staff. Expenditure must be traceable through completed physical projects. Counties need these resources. Governors should use them for their intended purposes, ensuring value for money, improved health facilities, and quality services that directly benefit Kenyans across all county governments."

- Hon. Mary Emaase (Teso South)



Accountability in our counties is very important. Every shilling of these funds must be accounted for, and its impact clearly demonstrated because the money is donor-funded. If we fail to properly account for projects financed by our development partners, concerns will arise over how the funds are being used. Such concerns may result in funding being withheld, leaving our people without jobs. It is equally important to ensure these donor funds, once they pass through the Central Bank of Kenya, are not delayed but are disbursed to counties promptly, enabling implementation of essential programmes and activities without interruption"

- Hon. Bady Twalib (Jomvu)



As we marshal ideas against shylock SACCOs, we must also ask ourselves why consumers turn to them. I believe it is because the market is not very friendly. The banking sector has never been friendly to micro, small and medium enterprises. When they seek loans, they are often asked for title deeds, and processing takes too long, yet consumers may have immediate needs. Consequently, they have no option but to visit shylocks. Many businesspeople do not want to use shylocks or microfinance institutions operating outside the law. Circumstances drive them there. Banks must create a friendlier lending environment for businesses."

- Hon. Wanjiku Muhia (Kipipiri)



"Sporting competitions in this country depend entirely on fairness, transparency and public confidence. Once these values are compromised, we lose the integrity of sport. Sportsmen and women participating in football, basketball, athletics and other disciplines should realise that if they allow themselves to be manipulated, or manipulate others, they destroy the very spirit of sport. They undermine fairness, transparency and public confidence. The greatest risk is discouraging young people who work so hard to excel. We crush their spirit, sportsmanship and dreams. That must stop if we are to protect the future of sports in our country"

- Hon. Owen Baya (Kilifi North)



"Many children are going missing. It is neither right nor fair to assign that responsibility to village elders. Village elders do not have the capacity to determine how children are disappearing. In many cases, they are taken across the border, yet village elders are not present. Security remains a persistent challenge. I urge that this matter be thoroughly investigated because we, too, are under immense pressure from the public. These are the questions we are asked every day, and we need clear answers to reassure affected families and strengthen public confidence in our security institutions."

-Hon. Zamzam Mohamed (Mombasa County)



"When resources are devolved, opportunities for the people are also devolved. We want to see development, trade, and economic growth in our counties, not counties becoming dens of corruption where nothing happens. We want every administration to hire more people instead of creating more programmes. That will improve the economic status of the people and drive progress. This country will not become a first-world nation if counties fail to perform. The President is committed to that vision. We want county governments to use these additional and regular funds prudently to develop their counties and uplift their people to prosperity."

- Hon. Joseph Makilap (Baringo North)



"I have heard many people refer to boda boda operators as goons. Yet these are the same young men leaders call upon to provide security or attend political rallies. Tomorrow, when they have nowhere to go, they may turn against us. That is a time bomb. We may play the blame game, but those in the boda boda industry must obey the law and avoid political exploitation. Leaders use them, and some even lose their lives. As leaders, we must ensure our actions today do not create problems that will haunt us in the future."

-Hon. Sabina Chege (Nominated)



Where are these agencies that are supposed to deal with these individuals with criminal minds who are dividing Kenyans along tribal lines? Where are the entities, officers from the DCI, the police and NCIC? This is because at the rate at which we are moving, tomorrow someone will brand you a Bukusu, forgetting that you are one of the key leaders of the Republic of Kenya. This trend is being entrenched. Is it high time the Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity brought a report to the House so that we adopt it and indict those individuals who are dividing our nation."

- Hon. Adan Keynan (Eldas)

BUNGE MASHINANI ▸ RUIRU CONSTITUENCY

Ruiru MP leads Huduma Mashinani exersice to bring government services closer to residents

Ruiru MP Hon. Simon Nganga King'ara on August 6, 2026 led the Huduma Mashinani Exercise at the Ruiru Huduma Centre, an initiative aimed at bringing essential government services closer to the people.

The exercise saw hundreds of residents access a wide range of services under one roof, including national ID registration, KRA, SHA, NTSA, eCitizen, birth certificate processing, police services, new voter registration, among others. Residents also benefited from free eye screening, blood pressure monitoring, and dental services.

While addressing residents, Hon. King'ara noted that the Huduma Mashinani initiative reflects the Government's commitment to bringing services closer to wananchi, reducing the cost and time spent accessing essential services, and ensuring that every citizen receives efficient and timely public service delivery.



Hon. Simon King'ara (Ruiru) addresses residents during the Huduma Mashinani Exercise

SAMBURU COUNTY



Hon. Pauline Lenguris welcomed by students of Kisima girls high school for official commissioning of a modern dormitory recently

Hon. Lenguris launches new dormitory at Kisima Girls High School

Congestion in the dormitories at Kisima Girls High School in Samburu County has been addressed following the official commissioning of a modern dormitory by County MP Hon. Pauline Lenguris.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, Hon. Lenguris said the facility had been completed with funding support from President William Ruto, following her request for assistance to complete the project.

"On behalf of the school, I want to thank H.E. President Ruto for funding the completion of the construction of the dormitory after I requested him. Our girls will now have enough space in the dormitories," she said.

The event was attended by Senator Hon. Dr. Ltumbesi Lelegwe, Hon. Naisula Lesuuda, MP for Samburu West, Hon. Dr. Jackson Lekumontare, MP for Samburu East, Members of the school management, alumni, and other invited guests.

UGUNJA CONSTITUENCY

Ugunja MP hands over new school bus to Rang'ala Girls Senior School

Ugunja MP Hon. Moses Omondi has officially handed over a new school bus to Rang'ala Girls Senior School, funded through the NG-CDF Ugunja, to address the transport challenges facing the institution.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, Hon. Omondi said school buses are no longer a luxury but a necessity, as they play a vital role in supporting both academic and co-curricular programmes.

"I am committed to working tirelessly for the people of Ugunja Constituency by prioritizing education and delivering meaningful development projects that positively impact the lives of our residents," he said.

The handover was met with jubilation from students, teachers, and Members of the school community, who welcomed the new bus as a significant boost to the institution.



Hon. Moses Omondi unveiling the new bus before handing over to the school

MBEERE NORTH CONSTITUENCY



New classrooms built by the Safaricom Foundation and opened by Cabinet Secretary Hon. Geoffrey Ruku recently.

Safaricom Foundation builds Ksh. 38 million classrooms at Katheru Primary School

The Safaricom Foundation has constructed new classrooms at Katheru Primary School in Evurore Ward, Mbeere North Constituency, at a cost of KSh 38 million.

Area MP Hon Leo Wamuthende said the infrastructure development will go a long way in addressing the shortage of classrooms while improving academic standards at the school.

"I sincerely thank the Safaricom Foundation for this remarkable investment in education. This initiative will provide a conducive learning environment for our children and greatly contribute to improving education standards in our community," said Hon. Wamuthende.

The new classrooms were officially opened by Public Service Cabinet Secretary Hon. Geoffrey Ruku alongside Hon. Wamuthende.

CLIQUE & CLICKS



Defence Committee Chairperson Hon. Nelson Koech (right), receives the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Kenya H.E. Marcin Kubiak, when he paid him a courtesy call at his office.



A section of Members of Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations Committee exchange notes on the sidelines of a Committee meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 2026. They are from right, Hon. Millie Odhiambo, Hon. Joshua Kandie, Hon. Fredrick Ikana, Hon. Nelson Koech and Hon. Anne Muratha.



Cabinet Secretary for Education Julius Ogamba poses for a photo with students from Alliance High School, Starehe Boys Centre, and Loreto Convent Valley Road, who are on a learning attachment at Parliament, after the meeting with Education Committee



Members' Services and Facilities Committee led by Hon. (Dr.) Wachira Karani (Centre) pose for a photo on Tuesday, August 4th, 2026 with the Bungoma County Assembly Public Service Board at Parliament Building



Hon. Mary Maingi (Mwea) shares a handshake with ICT & Digital Economy PS, John Tanui. Looking on behind the PS is the NG-CDF Committee Chairperson Hon. Musa Sirma (Eldama-Ravine). This was after a meeting where the PS apprised the Committee on the implementation status of digital hubs across the country

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State targets to issue 3 million ID cards by end of year, House Committee told

The government plans to issue three million national identity cards to Kenyans across the country by the end of the year, the Committee on Regional Integration, chaired by Hon. Irene Mayaka (Nominated), has been told.

Principal Secretary in the State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services, Dr Belio Kipsang, said the exercise will also target students who have attained the age of 18 years.

Dr Kipsang said the government had invested in technology to speed up the issuance of identity cards.

"We have invested in technology. We moved from a manual system of issuing ID cards to a digital system where we scan all documents using live capture equipment. This allows us to issue this important document within ten days and a replacement 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 three million ID cards by the end of this year," explained Dr Kipsang.



Principal Secretary in the State Depart- ment for Immigration and Citizen Services Dr. Belio Kipsang



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

He made the remarks while briefing lawmakers on progress in implementing the East African Community (EAC) Common Market Protocol, aimed at enhancing the efficiency of e-passport issuance and facilitating non-discriminatory movement within the region.

Hon. Mayaka commended the State Department for efforts to fast-track the issuance of identity cards and passports.

Members also urged the PS to push for the use

This week in history

The Constitutional Referendum of 4 August 2010

On 4 August 2010, millions of Kenyans queued before dawn at polling stations across the country to vote in a historic referendum on the Proposed Constitution. The ballot posed a simple question whether voters approved the new Constitution—but the decision would redefine Kenya's governance for generations.

The Proposed Constitution followed an extensive national consultative process. A Committee of Experts reviewed more than 35,000 public submissions before the National Assembly unanimously approved the final draft on 1 April 2010. When the votes were counted, about 6.8 million Kenyans (72.5% turnout) had participated, with 67% voting in favour. Despite opposition over issues including land, abortion and Kadhi's courts, the "Yes" campaign secured a decisive victory.



Kenyans queue at polling stations across the country on 4 August 2010 to vote in the constitutional referendum that would reshape the nation's governance

The new Constitution marked Kenya's most significant constitutional transformation since independence. It replaced a system that had concentrated power in the presidency with a framework built on checks and balances. It established a bicameral Parliament, restored the Senate to represent county interests, created 47 county governments under a devolved system, and entrenched a comprehensive Bill of Rights. It also restructured the Judiciary, established the Supreme Court, and created independent constitutional commissions. For Parliament, the Constitution strengthened oversight by requiring approval of key public appointments, limiting executive authority, and making public participation a constitutional requirement in law-making.

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

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