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BUNGE Weekly

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Kenya, India to deepen Parliamentary ties as Speaker Wetang'ula holds talks with counterpart Om Birla in New Delhi

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula is received by his Indian counterpart, Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla, upon arrival in New Delhi, India, for an official visit on Tuesday, August 13, 2026

E-COPY

Education sector poised for major reforms as six Bills are introduced in the National Assembly



Kenya's education sector is set for a major legislative overhaul after six Bills seeking to introduce reforms across the education ladder, from basic education to tertiary training, have passed their first reading in the National Assembly STORY ON PAGE 7

PLENARY

Public Participation Bill 2025 moves to Senate after House Approval



Hon Samuel Chepkonga, Co-Sponsor of the Bill

The National Assembly has approved the Public Participation Bill, 2025, paving way for enactment of the Law deemed crucial for better citizen engagement in public governance.

The Bill co-sponsored by Rarieda MP, Hon. Otiende Amollo and his Ainabkoi counterpart Hon. Samuel Chikunga seeks to provide a clear legal framework to guide public participation in governance and decision making across Government entities.

The Bill comes in the wake of years of debates over how Government institutions such as the Houses of Parliament, County Assemblies, Constitutional Commissions and other public entities can involve citizens better in decisions that affect them.

The Bill, which was considered by the National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs (JLAC) proposes principles and general guidelines for conducting public participation and identifies the authorities responsible for organising the same.

Prior to tabling of its Report on the Bill, the Committee undertook extensive public participation, including consideration of stakeholder views as well as nationwide public hearings where Kenyans also weighed in on diverse recommendations of the proposed Law.

JLAC Chairperson Hon. Gitonga Murugara (Tharaka) told the House that the Bill if assented to would go a long way in streamlining processes in key government agencies, by ensuring that citizens are better involved own the decision-making processes.

"To avoid over legislation, we as a House have given the mandate on public participation to the various government institutions; and it is now up to them to study this Bill once it is assented to and to come up with the specific regulations as guided," noted Hon. Murugara.

During House debate, MPs stressed the importance of meaningful public participation that goes beyond the procedural requirements in decision making across Government entities.

MPs also stressed the need for easy accessibility of documents related to the public participation processes in languages that Kenyans can understand, including the enhanced use of sign language.

The Bill has since been transmitted to the Senate for consideration. If enacted into law, it is expected to bring greater consistency and accountability to citi- zen engagement across the country.

Speaker urges NCIC to build trust, tackle political incitement

National Assembly Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula has challenged the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) to rebuild public trust and take a more proactive role in promoting national unity beyond election periods.

Speaking at the Parliament Buildings on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, when he hosted the Commission's Chairperson, Bishop Kepha Omae, and commissioners, Hon. Wetang'ula said NCIC must confront challenges undermining its constitutional mandate and remain active throughout the electoral cycle.

"NCIC suffers from serious trust issues. The Commission was formed from the ashes of the 2007 post-election violence to bridge divisions created by political differences. It should not be active only during elections," Wetang'ula said.

He emphasized the importance of sustained civic education to change attitudes and foster national cohesion, noting that ethnicity should not be used to divide or disadvantage Kenyans.

"There is nothing wrong with belonging to a particular ethnic community. The problem comes when that identity is used to oppress and disadvantage others," he said.

Speaker Wetang'ula urged NCIC to partner with the Ministry of Education to nurture a culture of unity among young people. He also called for stronger collaboration with the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Judiciary, and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission.



National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) Chairperson, Bishop Kepha Omae, flanked by Members and Commissioners, pose for a picture at the Parliament Buildings on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, after a Courtesy meeting

He said NCIC must clearly define its role, strengthen its investigative capacity, and earn the confidence of Kenyans, assuring the Commission that Parliament would support it within the bounds of the law.

Bishop Omae said NCIC had developed a roadmap for the 2027 General Election centered on prevention, engagement and collaboration.

"We are seeking collaborations with other agencies and all political players. We seek to end polarisation and ethnicity," Omae said.

He said the Commission would engage political leaders, elders, religious leaders, and schools to promote responsible political conduct and to combat hate speech.

NCIC Commissioner Jerusha Mwaathime called for expanded investigative powers and closer cooperation with other agencies to address emerging incidents of hate speech, incitement, and intolerance.

Kenya, India to deepen Parliamentary ties as Speaker Wetang'ula holds talks with Birla in New Delhi



National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula is received by his Indian counterpart, Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla, upon arrival in New Delhi, India, for an official visit on Tuesday, August 13, 2026.



National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula poses for a picture with his Indian counterpart, Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla, upon arriving in New Delhi, India, for an official visit on Tuesday, August 13, 2026. He is accompanied by MPs David Ochieng, Mizighi Lydia Haika, Mwenje Mark Samuel, and Omar Mwinyi.

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Kenya and India are set to deepen parliamentary and bilateral cooperation following talks in New Delhi between National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula and his Indian counterpart, Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla.

Hon. Wetang'ula was in India for an official visit at the invitation of Birla, with discussions focused on strengthening parliamentary diplomacy, institutional cooperation, and economic ties between the two countries.

The Speaker arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday, August 13, 2026, and was received by Kenya's Deputy Head of Mission to India, Ambassador Mary Mutuku, and Lok Sabha Member Hon. Umeshbhai Babubhai Patel.

During his meeting with Birla, Speaker Wetang'ula said that Kenya and India share "a historic and enduring partnership" grounded in mutual respect, shared democratic values, and strong people-to-people ties spanning decades.

"Parliament plays an important role in advancing our shared interests and strengthening relations between our two nations," Hon. Wetang'ula said.

He said parliamentary diplomacy would provide an avenue for the two legislatures to exchange legislative experiences, strengthen democratic institutions, and expand cooperation in Committee work, oversight, and staff capacity building.

Speaker Wetang'ula also called for stronger economic partnerships, particularly in trade and investment, while highlighting opportunities arising from Kenya's natural resources, its manufacturing and technology sectors, and India's growing economic engagement with Africa.

He further proposed staff exchange and training programs covering chamber management, legislative drafting and technology to improve parliamentary efficiency and service delivery.

On his part, Speaker Birla welcomed Dr. Wetang'ula, saying the relationship between the two Parliaments was entering a new phase focused on practical cooperation and institutional exchanges.

"India and Kenya share deep historical links and democratic traditions. Through enhanced parliamentary exchanges, we can learn from each other and work together to address the aspirations of our people," Hon. Birla said.

He added that the two legislatures were exploring exchange programs for Members of the two Parliaments and parliamentary staff, beyond routine parliamentary operations, to build stronger institutional linkages.

The discussions also covered digital transformation, education, healthcare, and trade and investment, reflecting the expanding scope of Kenya-India relations and shared priorities in the Global South.

Hon. Wetang'ula was accompanied by MPs David Ochieng, Mizighi Lydia Haika, Mwenje Mark Samuel, and Omar Mwinyi.

MPs demand answers over persistent power outages, faulty transformers

Members of Parliament have demanded that the Energy Cabinet Secretary appears before the National Assembly to explain persistent power outages, faulty transformers and slow electricity connectivity, saying the failures are crippling businesses, schools and health facilities.

Lawmakers accused Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) of neglecting maintenance, delaying repairs and failing to expand electricity access equitably.

Hon. Edith Nyenze (Kitui West) who rose on the floor seeking a Statement on the matter, said her constituency has 33 faulty transformers, some unrepaired for more than a year despite repeated reports.

"There is no point in making new electricity connections while the old ones are not being maintained," she said, adding that dispensaries and businesses were bearing the brunt of prolonged outages.

Hon. Titus Lotee (Kacheliba) said nearly half the schools in his constituency have no electricity, while some connected institutions have had transformers removed for repairs that were never completed.



Kitui West MP, Hon. Edith Nyenze, who raised concerns over persistent power outages

Hon. Peter Kaluma (Homa Bay Town) alleged that some transformer vandalism could involve rogue Kenya Power employees and called for investigations. He said fallen power lines had caused fatal accidents.

Hon. John Mutunga (Tigania West) urged Kenya Power to improve planning, saying some transformers serve only one or two households while deserving areas remain unconnected.

Hon. Moses Kirima (Central Imenti) said electricity coverage in his constituency stood at about 40 per cent and claimed a suspect arrested over transformer vandalism was a Kenya Power employee.

Hussein Weytan (Mandera East) said his constituency had endured more than six months of power interruptions because of delayed replacement of transformers and generators. He proposed opening electricity distribution to competition.

Hon. Didmus Barasa (Kimilili) challenged the Departmental Committee on Energy to compel the Energy Cabinet Secretary to appear before Parliament.

"It is only proper that the Cabinet Secretary appears before this House. Members have raised pertinent questions and Kenyans deserve answers," he said.

MPs urged the ministry to prioritise transformer repairs, accelerate electricity connections and investigate alleged vandalism involving utility staff, warning that unreliable power was undermining education, healthcare and economic activity.

Speaker Wetang'ula pledges stronger Kenya-Azerbaijan parliamentary ties



National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula with H.E. Sultan Hajiyev, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Kenya during a courtesy call at the Parliament Buildings.



National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula with H.E. Sultan Hajiyev, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Kenya during a courtesy call at the Parliament Buildings.

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula has pledged to strengthen parliamentary ties between Kenya and Azerbaijan following a meeting with Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Kenya, Sultan Hajiyev at Parliament Buildings in Nairobi.

The two leaders discussed ways of improving cooperation between the two countries' parliaments and expanding their diplomatic relations.

Ambassador Hajiyev asked for the Speaker's support in building closer links between Kenya's National Assembly and Azerbaijan's Parliament, saying stronger cooperation would benefit both countries.

"We hope this will further strengthen the partnership between our parliaments and improve relations between our two countries," the ambassador said.

Speaker Wetang'ula welcomed the proposal and promised to support efforts aimed at increasing exchanges between the two legislatures.

"Our team will support her," he said, referring to Azerbaijan's parliamentary leadership.

During the meeting, Wetang'ula recalled visiting Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, in 1979 when he was a university student. "I was in Baku in 1979," he said.

Ambassador Hajiyev said he still remembered the Speaker talking about the visit during one of their earlier meetings and praised his understanding of Azerbaijan's history and regional affairs.

"I appreciate your friendship with Azerbaijan and your knowledge of our country," the ambassador said.

The envoy also commended Kenya for showcasing its Affordable Housing Programme at a recent international event in Baku saying the country's presentation attracted wide attention.

"Kenya was shining through its Affordable Housing Programme. The event attracted about 53,000 participants," he said.

The two leaders said stronger parliamentary cooperation would help deepen relations between Kenya and Azerbaijan and create more opportunities for trade, investment and cultural exchanges.

COMMITTEES' ROUND-UP

Tourism and Wildlife Committee approves work plan, set to review key Bill



Tourism and Wildlife Committee chairperson Hon. Kareke Mbiuki making his contribution during a meeting at Bunge Tower.

The National Assembly Departmental Committee on Tourism and Wildlife has approved its work plan for the first quarter of the 2026/27 financial year.

During a meeting chaired by Hon. Kareke Mbiuki (Maara), the Committee approved a series of activities outlined in its calendar for the period.

Among the key programs scheduled for implementation is a stakeholders' forum on the Tourism (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

"The Committee will later hold public participation exercises in Lamu and Kilifi counties to gather residents' views on the proposed Bill," said Hon. Mbiuki.

The Committee will also conduct public hearings in Samburu and Laikipia counties as part of its inquiry into the human-wildlife conflict.

Additionally, the Committee will invite the Director General of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Prof. Erastus Kanga, to brief Members on the mysterious deaths of 15 elephants in Amboseli National Park. The Committee also seeks an update on measures implemented to protect wildlife from risks associated with farming activities in areas neighboring the park.

As part of its work plan, the Committee is also scheduled to undertake an inspection tour of Amboseli National Park, among other oversight activities.

Communication Committee reviews gig economy laws as Glovo seeks regulatory clarity



Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation, Hon. John Kiarie (Dagoretti South), chairing the meeting with officials from Glovo Kenya at Bunge Tower. The Committee is examining policy and legislative frameworks to guide Kenya's growing digital platform and gig economy.



A section of Members of the Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation led by Chairperson Hon. John Kiarie pose for a group photo with Glovo Kenya officials after a meeting.

Parliament is considering possible legislative reforms to guide Kenya's rapidly expanding platform and gig economy.

This follows a meeting between Members of the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation led by chairperson Hon. John Kiarie (Dagoretti South), and representatives of Glovo Kenya.

During the session, Glovo urged lawmakers to develop a regulatory framework that protects platform workers while preserving innovation, investment and the flexibility valued by many riders.

The company expressed concern over proposals that would automatically classify delivery riders as employees, arguing that such a move could undermine the independence that attracts many workers to the sector.

Hon. Kiarie noted that the platform economy extends beyond delivery services and includes thousands of young Kenyans engaged in digital work, innovation and technology-enabled services. He said Parliament is keen to better understand the evolving sector before proposing legislative interventions.

Glovo Kenya Country General Manager Caroline Mutuku told the Committee that the digital economy has created significant opportunities for riders, small businesses and technology professionals. She said more than 2,500 riders and over 6,000 merchants currently rely on the platform, which has generated over Sh20 billion in economic value since entering the Kenyan market in 2019.

The company supported enhanced social protections for platform workers, including insurance and other safeguards, while advocating for regulations tailored to the unique nature of digital platforms.

Lawmakers also engaged Glovo on taxation, consumer protection, data privacy and rider welfare. Members challenged the firm to expand internship and skills development opportunities for young Kenyans.

Public Petitions Committee seeks answers on pension transition and retirees' welfare



Committee Chairperson Hon. Muchangi Karemba asks a question during meeting.



PSSF CEO Dr. Jonah Aiyabei (left), responds to Members' questions alongside the Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Service and Human Capital Development, Dr. Jane Imbunya.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) has rejected claims by Members of the Kenya National Association of Public Service Pensioners in Kericho that the transition from the Defined Benefits Scheme administered by the National Treasury to the Defined Contribution Scheme established under the Public Service Superannuation Scheme Act (PSSS Act) from January 1, 2021, created a discriminatory dual-pension architecture.

Appearing before the Public Petitions Committee to respond to Public Petition No. 8 of 2026, the Deputy CEO at the PSC, Mr. Gerald Kuhaka, said the transition provided eligible public officers with a choice between joining the new Public Service Superannuation Scheme and remaining under the existing Defined Benefits Scheme.

Mr. Kuhaka said every officer aged above 45 years at the commencement of the PSSS was given the option to join the Scheme, while those who chose to remain in the Defined Benefits Scheme did so by exercising that right.

The petitioners had raised concerns over the statutory commutation of one-quarter of pension benefits, arguing that it reduces retirees' monthly income despite pension being an accrued right under Section 5 of the Pensions Act (Cap. 189). They also cited failure by the National Treasury to undertake periodic actuarial reviews and implement pension increases recommended by the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC), saying this had eroded pensioners' purchasing power amid rising inflation.

Mr. Kuhaka informed the Committee that the National Treasury had constituted a Multi-Agency Task Team in 2024 to review all pension laws, with the PSC among its Members.

"This review is ongoing, and any resulting amendments or repeals will go through the normal legislative process, which is expected to address these concerns," said Mr. Kuhaka.

Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Service and Human Capital Development, Dr. Jane Imbunya, said the transition was intended to make public pension costs fiscally sustainable and predictable, shift funding risks away from future taxpayers, align Kenya's public service pension arrangements with modern retirement-benefits practices, and mobilise domestic savings.

Committee Chairperson Hon. Muchangi Karemba (Runyenjes) sought clarification on protection against inflation. Dr. Aiyabei said the PSSF had adopted an investment policy aimed at ensuring returns remain sensitive to inflation.

NGCDF Committee briefed on the operationalization of digital hubs countrywide



Committee Chairperson, Hon. Musa Sirma, during a meeting with the PS for ICT and Digital Economy, Mr. John Tanui



PS for ICT and Digital Economy, Mr. John Tanui, appearing before the Committee.

The National Assembly Committee on NG-CDF chaired by Hon. Musa Sirma (Eldama Ravine), has been apprised on the status of implementation and operationalization of the digital hub programme in constituencies across the country.

The PS for ICT and Digital Economy, Mr. John Tanui, told the Committee that a total of 588 Digital Hub sites has been allocated across 274 constituencies, supported by a cumulative allocation of Ksh. 3,903,978,508 and of these, 177 sites had been completed, 181 sites were currently under implementation, while 233 sites were yet to commence.

According to the PS, the Ministry is progressively operationalizing completed Digital Hubs through deployment of ICT equipment, internet connectivity and ICT personnel.

"To date, 22,354 desktop computers have been deployed to TVET institutions and other public learning institutions to support digital skills training and enhance access to digital services," the PS told the Committee.

Reacting to the presentation, Hon. Sirma asked the PS why there was uneven distribution and implementation of the hubs regionally.

"Why is it that some facilities are adequately equiped while others are not. Information we gathered during visits showed that some hubs have never gotten these computer devices, ICT assistants and are not even connected with Wi-fi," he asked.

The PS told the Committee that they deliver devices based on the readiness of the site adding that for the last one year they have not had a completely assembled devices therefore some completed sites are yet to be equipped.

However, the PS informed the Committee that a total of 10,000 devices had been assembled at Moi University and JKUAT and delivery to completed sites.

"The delivery has taken place already and we expect to be done by mid-September. For the ready sites, each will get 30 devices and we project the other 10,000 to have been completely assembled by October or November this year. Early next year another 20,000 will be ready. We will add more as we move along," the PS informed the Committee.

According to the PS, to complement the target of establishing 1,450 Digital Hubs one per war, the State Department has developed a projected expansion and contingency strategy that leverages existing Government infrastructure for the operationalization of additional Digital Hubs, with the proposed facilities including; Affordable Housing Projects, ESP Markets, Stadiums, Huduma Centres, TVET Institutions and Community Hubs.

PAC Committee queries delayed roll-out of land records digitization



Public Accounts Committee Chairperson Hon. Tindi Mwale leading the meeting with State department of Lands officials



Hon. Dr. Edwin Mugo (Mathioya) and Hon. Gabriel Kagombe (Gatundu South), both Members of the Public Accounts Committee, at the meeting with the State department of Lands

The Public Accounts Committee has raised concern over the slow implementation of land records digitization in the country.

The Committee, led by Chairperson Hon. Tindi Mwale (Butere), said the delay has slowed service delivery and exposed the land sector to fraud.

The concerns emerged during the examination of the Auditor-General's Reports for the financial years ended 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2025 on the accounts of the State Department for Lands and Physical Planning. Principal Secretary Hon. Nixon Korir, accompanied by State Department officials, appeared before the Committee to respond to audit queries.

The Auditor-General's report flagged the delayed implementation of the National Land Management Information System, commonly known as 'Ardhi Sasa'.

According to the report, only the Nairobi and Murang'a land registries had been fully digitised and migrated to the system out of the country's 83 land registries.

"The digital system was formally launched in April 2021 by the Ministry of Lands. What happened? More than five years later, why hasn't the system been rolled out in other parts of the country?" posed Hon. Mwale.

Committee Members said it was unfortunate that Members of the public were still subjected to long queues and repeated visits to verify a single parcel of land despite the promise of digitised land records.

In response, PS Korir said that apart from Nairobi and Murang'a, the system has also been rolled out in Mombasa Island and Isiolo.

"Significant progress has also been made in Mombasa mainland and Marsabit," he said.

The Committee urged the State Department to fast-track the digitisation of all land registries to improve service delivery, enhance efficiency and help curb land fraud.

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The six Bills, all sponsored by the Leader of the Majority Party, Hon Kimani Ichung'wah, were tabled in the House on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, and propose far-reaching changes to governance, curriculum development, assessment, teacher training, qualifications, placement, and the financing of education.

At the basic education level, the Basic Education Bill, 2026 seeks to replace the existing legal framework governing primary and secondary education. It includes provisions on the registration of institutions, governance, special needs education, quality assurance, scholarships and bursaries, and the Kenya Education Management Information System (KEMIS).

The Kenya National Educational Assessments Council Bill, 2026 proposes establishing the Kenya National Educational Assessments Council (KNEAC), replacing the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) and introducing a new framework for national assessments, including provisions on electronic assessment and measures to address examination malpractices.

The Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026 seeks to refocus the mandate of the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), including shifting its responsibility from tertiary education and training to teacher education and training.

Complementing the proposals of the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026, is the Pre-Service Education and In-Service Training Bill, 2026, which seeks to establish a dedicated framework for teacher training, including the creation of the Kenya Teachers Training College and the Kenya School of Education.



File photo: Tinderet MP and Chairperson of the Committee on Education

At the tertiary level, the Tertiary Education Placement and Funding Bill, 2026 seeks to establish a new framework for student placement and financing through the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service and the Tertiary Education Funding Authority. The Bill also proposes repealing the Higher Education Loans Board Act.

The sixth Bill introduced is the Kenya National Qualifications Framework (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which seeks to strengthen the national qualifications framework by establishing a registration regime for qualification-awarding institutions and a national qualifications database.

If enacted, the six Bills will coordinate and restructure Kenya's education system by strengthening institutional specialisation, streamlining education financing and placement, establishing a unified qualifications framework, and creating dedicated institutions for teacher training and national assessment.

Energy Committee questions delays in KOSAP projects, faults Energy Ministry over transformer shortages



Energy Committee Chairperson Hon. David Gikaria during the meeting

MPs have questioned the State Department for Energy over persistent delays in implementing the Kenya Off-Grid Solar Access Project (KOSAP), warning that billions of shillings in borrowed funds risk yielding little value as key projects continue to stall.

Appearing before the Departmental Committee on Energy, Principal Secretary for Energy Alex Wachira admitted that the World Bank-funded project, launched in 2017 to provide electricity to 14 underserved counties, has suffered major setbacks. Initially scheduled for completion in June 2023, KOSAP has already been extended twice, to September 2026, and the ministry is now seeking a further 12-month extension to September 2027.

Mr. Wachira attributed the delays to the COVID-19 pandemic, land acquisition challenges and contractors who failed to mobilise resources or maintain adequate cash flow.

"Physical progress on the mini-grids stands at 43 per cent, while financial absorption is only 24 per cent. The outstanding works will clearly extend beyond the current financing agreement," he told the Committee.

Committee Chairperson Hon. David Gikaria expressed concern over the slow pace of implementation, saying delayed projects continue to tie up public resources without delivering services.

"We cannot continue borrowing money while projects remain incomplete. Kenyans must get value for every shilling borrowed," said Hon. Gikaria

Lawmakers also questioned the government's due diligence in awarding contracts after several firms recorded little or no progress. Hon. Julius Mawathe (Embakasi South) urged the Committee to verify progress on the ground.

"There is a clear disconnect between the reports we receive and what exists in our constituencies. We need site visits to establish the true status of these projects," he said.

Among the contractors flagged were Chinese firm Longi Solar and the G-Tech-Banan joint venture, which have recorded negligible progress on some project lots. Mr. Wachira said the government had sought the intervention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to engage Chinese authorities in reviving stalled contracts instead of terminating them, arguing that fresh procurement would cause even longer delays.

The Committee is expected to inspect KOSAP mini-grid projects in Marsabit and Mandera counties in the coming weeks.

"We cannot continue borrowing money while projects remain incomplete. Kenyans must get value for every shilling borrowed," said Hon. Gikaria

PIC Energy back sector-based roundtables to resolve state corporations' audit queries



Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy Chairperson, Hon. David Pkosing, MP for Pokot South during a meeting

The National Assembly Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy (PIC-CA&E) has proposed the use of sector-based roundtables to expedite the resolution of audit queries affecting State corporations that operate within the same service-delivery sector.

The Committee says the approach would enable Parliament, government agencies and the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) to address recurring and cross-cutting audit concerns collectively, rather than interrogating similar issues separately for each State corporation.

Pokot South MP David Pkosing, who chairs the Committee, said the strategy had already proved effective during the Committee's examination of audited financial statements of State corporations in the energy sector.

Hon. Pkosing made the remarks while moving a Motion for the adoption of the Committee's Fourth Report on its examination of audited financial statements of five State corporations in the energy sector for three financial years ending in the 2022/23 financial year.

The Committee examined the financial affairs and audit queries of the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC), Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen), Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC), and the Nuclear Power and Energy Company (NuPEA).

The exercise involved individual engagements with the respective State corporations, followed by a sector-wide roundtable bringing together officials from the Ministry of Energy, the National Treasury, the Office of the Auditor-General and the management of the agencies under review.

Hon. Pkosing said the roundtable provided an opportunity for the various institutions to interrogate audit findings from a broader policy, financial and operational perspective, particularly where the same challenges affected several agencies.

"This is one of the easiest ways to ensure that Kenyans get value for money because some of the recurrent audit matters are cross-cutting and can be resolved in that way," Mr Pkosing told the House.

He said the approach had enabled the Committee to resolve a significant number of the audit issues raised by the Auditor-General, demonstrating the value of bringing together institutions whose operations are closely interconnected.

The Committee cumulatively reviewed 195 audit queries relating to the five State corporations and resolved 105 of them, leaving 90 unresolved for further action.

The Committee has also applied the sector-based roundtable approach in its examination of audit queries affecting agencies in the roads and transport sector.

In that exercise, MPs considered 248 audit queries involving seven State agencies and managed to resolve 140 of them following engagements with the relevant institutions and stakeholders.

Budget Committee reviews Bill to create standalone maize sector law



Budget and Appropriations Committee Vice Chairperson Hon. Robert Pukose



Sponsor of the proposed Maize Bill, 2026, Moiben MP, Hon. Phylis Bartoo

The National Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committee has reviewed the proposed Maize Bill, 2026, that seeks to establish a dedicated legal framework for Kenya's maize sector in a move aimed at strengthening support for millions of farmers and improving food security.

The Bill, sponsored by Moiben MP, Hon. Phylis Bartoo, proposes the creation of a Maize Board of Kenya, a Maize Research Institute of Kenya, a Maize Development Fund, and a specialized Maize Arbitration Tribunal to regulate the country's most important staple crop.

Appearing before the Committee chaired by Vice Chairperson Hon. Robert Pukose, Hon. Bartoo argued that although the Government has rolled out interventions to support maize production, farmers still require stronger institutional protection.

"By introducing this Bill, we want to support maize farmers. Despite the government's support, maize farmers need further protection and cushioning. We have an omnibus law under the Agriculture and Food Authority Act, but this Bill proposes giving maize its own legal framework, just as was done for the coffee sector," she said.

Kenya's maize sector supports approximately 3.5 million farmers and accounts for about 56 per cent of the country's cultivated land, making it one of the country's most strategic agricultural industries. Yet domestic production continues to lag behind demand, forcing the country to rely on imports.

According to the Committee's fiscal analysis, Kenya consumed approximately 4.2 million metric tonnes of maize in 2025 against local production of 4.03 million metric tonnes, leaving an import requirement of about 170,000 metric tonnes.

The proposed law would transfer regulation of the maize sector from the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) to a newly established Maize Board, which would register millers, license importers and exporters, monitor market trends, promote value addition and oversee industry standards.

The Budget Committee is expected to consider whether the proposed institutional framework offers value for money or whether some functions should remain under existing agencies such as AFA and KALRO.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



The Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC) should stop creating false hope among communities seeking electricity. Its teams visit sites, prepare designs and request paperwork, making residents believe connections are imminent. Yet, out of 100 people, they may connect only 30. This is unfair. In my constituency, some residents have waited for electricity meters for two years. Recently, the Principal Secretary announced another project, leaving us looking like we are lying, when we are not implementing these projects. REREC teams should only be sent when funds are available and there is certainty projects will be completed properly on time."

- Hon. Martha Wangari (Gilgil)



For years, constituencies have invested substantial NG-CDF resources in satellite KMTC campuses and other learning facilities to expand access to education and skills. These investments have improved infrastructure and supported the Government's goal of equitable quality education. However, it is unfair that local communities have no meaningful stake in admissions. Deserving students from host constituencies often miss opportunities in facilities established to serve their needs. While public admissions must uphold equity, inclusivity and merit, a fair framework should reserve reasonable quotas for qualified local students. This would ensure communities that provide land and resources receive tangible benefits from these facilities."

- Hon. Adams Korir (Keiyo North)



I condemn all those who use abusive and filthy language that could incite unrest in this country. We have nowhere else to go. We cannot go to our neighbors in Somalia because there are problems there. If you go to Ethiopia, there are problems. If you go to South Sudan, it is a disaster. If you go to Tanzania, they may not allow us to enter because just the other day we insulted them; they will not accept Kenyans going there. So where will we go? This is our one nation. Let us stand together as Kenyans despite our political differences."

-Hon. Rashid Bedzimba (Kisauni)



Recently, I was with women's groups as they registered, and we were asked to pay Ksh5,550 for e-Citizen, Ksh2,000 for updating the system, Ksh1,000 for training certificates and Ksh200 for printing certificates. These are vulnerable women trying to come together and start small empowerment projects. If registration costs Ksh5,000, let that be the standard. We should not introduce extra fees that are not in the regulations. I also wonder how women in rural areas can access e-Citizen services. The Government is improving accessibility, but more must be done. Let us protect our women and support grassroots self-empowerment and economic independence."

-Hon. Joyce Kamene (Machakos County)



Without proper regulations and mechanisms to ensure imported raw sugar containing impurities is cleaned and processed into industrial sugar, we risk exposing Kenyans to health hazards. Such gaps could also distort a market we have worked hard to protect and grow. The sugar industry has expanded, creating opportunities for farmers across the country. Many farmers are embracing sugarcane production because of improved earnings and agricultural benefits. In my area, sugarcane was never a major crop. Today, more farmers are venturing into it locally. This growth must be protected through strict controls that safeguard public health, fair competition and farmers' livelihoods."

- Hon. Marianne Kitany (Aldai)



The energy sector in Kenya is dead, some will say dead on arrival because there are a lot of delays in project implementation in Kenya Power, Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation and the rest of energy suppliers in this country. The manner in which charges are carried out in this country requires a lot of attention. There are project delays across the county. In my constituency, projects initiated in 2021/2022 or 2020/2021 remain unimplemented or are still struggling. Therefore, we need a ruralised or devolved Committee to spearhead and manage rural electrification issues. It is important."

- Hon. Joseph Emathe (Turkana Central)



I thank the current Government for being deliberate about connecting as many Kenyans as possible to power. However, what is lacking is the capacity of contractors given this work. The World Bank has provided money for maximisation and last-mile connectivity, yet some contractors continue to dilly-dally in implementing the projects. This is despite the Government meaning well for Kenyans. I believe this is an area we need to check on urgently. The money is available, but the implementing agency appears slow. The Government should therefore strengthen oversight and ensure contractors deliver projects within the required timelines. This requires urgent intervention to benefit more Kenyans."

- Hon. Gichimu Githinji (Gichugu)



I am a product of the sugar industry. My late father was a sugarcane farmer, and we remain farmers to this day. I went to school through proceeds from sugarcane farming, and what you see today is a product of that industry. The Government has made efforts to streamline the sector and ensure farmers benefit from their sweat. Farmers must be protected, but Kenyans must also be protected from harmful products and Government revenue safeguarded. KEBS must ensure every import matches its licence. Police must remain vigilant because unscrupulous traders may misuse licences to import products, putting Kenyans at risk."

-Hon. Rozaah Buyu (Kisumu West)



I have understood the fishing arena since the fisherfolk elected me. You can restock the lake through fingerlings, just as you do with cage fishing. We need to scale up technology. If we are using technology on land, why are we not using it in the lake? We will use traditional methods alongside technology to restock the lake without punishing fisherfolk. Nobody will fish where there is no fish. The government sometimes puts standards when there is fish and the people need to fish. This has effects—they go begging, and children do not go to school. It punishes fishermen."

-Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona (Suba North)



There is need to get evidence on what is happening in the leather industry, especially on matters of policy. We do not have complete projects. Many of them are still being implemented. We have not allocated money in the budget to finalise the County Aggregate Industrial Parks that are supposed to support the leather industry. We need to realise the potential that the leather industry has in this nation. We should open up the whole northern region for pastoralists to earn good money through value addition to leather and create jobs and livelihoods for our people nationwide."

- Hon. Gitonga Mukunji (Manyatta)

CLIQUE & CLICKS



The Chairperson of the Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity,Hon. Adan Yussuf Haji (Mandera West) biding farewell to Hon. Lamwaka Catherine, the Chairperson of the Committee on Equal Opportunities from the Parliament of Uganda, after a meeting in Bunge Towers. Hon. Lamwaka led a delegation of of Ugandan MPs in a benchmarking visit to the National Assembly of Kenya.



Hon. Suzanne Kiamba (right), shakes hands with PS Imbunya as she attended a Public Petitions Committee meeting, as Hon. Edith Nyenze looks on.



Kitutu Masaba MP, Hon. Clive Gisairo, seeks clarification from the Chairperson of the Education Committee, Hon. Julius Melly (Tinderet), during a meeting with TVET officials.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT - FIFTH SESSION (2026)

IN THE MATTER OF ARTICLE 118(1)(B) OF THE CONSTITUTION AND IN THE MATTER OF CONSIDERATION BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 7 OF 2026 ON THE NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND INVESTMENT POLICY

INVITATION TO SUBMIT MEMORANDA

WHEREAS, Article 118(1)(b) of the Constitution requires Parliament to facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other business of Parliament;

AND WHEREAS, Sessional Paper No. 7 of 2026 on the National Infrastructure Fund Investment Policy was submitted to the National Assembly and referred to the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning for consideration and reporting to the House;

IT IS NOTIFIED that **Sessional Paper No. 7 of 2026 on the National Infrastructure Fund Investment Policy** establishes the Investment Policy of the National Infrastructure Fund in accordance with Section 25 of the National Infrastructure Fund Act. The Policy provides a framework within which the National Infrastructure Fund Board shall invest and manage the resources of the Fund.

Specifically, the Policy seeks to—
(a) accelerate the development of nationally significant infrastructure;
(b) mobilise domestic and international private capital;
(c) reduce reliance on public debt for commercially viable infrastructure;
(d) strengthen national capacity for project origination, preparation, structuring and execution;
(e) generate sustainable commercial investment returns; and
(f) recycle investment proceeds into future infrastructure investments.

NOW THEREFORE, in compliance with Article 118(1)(b) of the Constitution, the Clerk of the National Assembly hereby invites the public to submit memoranda on the Sessional Paper to the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning.

A copy of the Sessional Paper is available at the National Assembly Table Office, Main Parliament Buildings, and on the Parliament website **www.parliament.go.ke.**

The memoranda may be forwarded to the **Clerk of the National Assembly, P.O. Box 41842-00100, Nairobi;** hand-delivered to the **Office of the Clerk, Main Parliament Buildings, Nairobi;** or emailed to **cna@parliament.go.ke** to be received on or before **Monday, 24th August 2026** at **5.00 p.m.**

S. NJOROGE, CBS
CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

15th August, 2026

"For the Welfare of Society and the Just Government of the People"

BUNGE MASHINANI ▸ ALEGO USONGA CONSTITUENCY

Hon. Atandi equips Siaya youth with machinery to drive enterprise and job creation

Alego Usonga MP, Hon. Samuel Atandi, has launched a youth empowerment initiative aimed at equipping young people in Siaya with practical tools to establish and strengthen businesses.

Under the initiative, youth groups have received a range of equipment, including welding machines, sewing machines, motorcycles, salon kits, car wash machines, construction equipment, pool tables and PlayStations.

Hon. Atandi said his priority was to empower young people with practical tools, skills and opportunities that enable them to create wealth and become job creators rather than relying on promises.

He encouraged youth groups across Siaya to take advantage of Government programmes such as the Kenya Jobs and Economic Transformation (KJET) Project and the NYOTA Programme, which provide training, business support and financing opportunities for young entrepreneurs.

"When I invest in our youth, I invest in the future of Siaya and Kenya," Hon. Atandi said, pledging to continue supporting an enabling environment where enterprise can thrive, innovation can flourish and young people can pursue sustainable livelihoods.



Alego Usonga MP, Hon. Samuel Atandi posing with residents of Siaya county at the launch of his youth empowerment initiative

KISUMU COUNTY



Kisumu County MP, Hon. Ruth Odinga posing with residents of Marera village after receiving funding to support their income generating activities

Hon. Ruth Odinga issues grants to women, youth and PWD groups in Kisumu West constituency

Kisumu County MP, Hon. Ruth Odinga, has overseen the distribution of grants to women, youth and persons with disabilities (PWD) groups in North West Ward.

Hon. Odinga issued the cheques during a community engagement in Marera Village, where beneficiaries received financial support to strengthen their groups and improve their livelihoods.

The legislator said she would continue supporting young people through full scholarships for students undertaking vocational training, noting that technical and vocational skills provide young people with opportunities to become self-reliant and reduce dependence on parents and guardians.

She also reaffirmed her commitment to supporting women engaged in the fishing industry, saying she would provide boats fitted with engines to women groups as part of efforts to address challenges facing women in the sector and combat the practice commonly referred to as 'sex for fish'.

Hon. Odinga further pledged to ensure that bursaries administered through her office benefit the most needy students across Kisumu County.

GARSEN CONSTITUENCY

Garsen MP, Hon. Ali Wario opens new ACC Office as national ID and voter registration exercise begins

Garsen MP, Hon. Ali Wario, recently presided over the official opening of the Assistant County Commissioner's (ACC) Office for Garsen Central Division at Kipao Village, alongside the launch of the National Identification and Voter Registration Exercise.

The occasion was graced by Coast Regional Commissioner Paul Rotich and Regional Police Commander Ali Nuno, highlighting the Government's efforts to strengthen security, improve public administration and bring essential services closer to residents.

Hon. Wario said the new ACC office marks a significant milestone in improving access to government services and strengthening administration within Garsen Central Division.

The National ID and voter registration exercise will also enable more residents to acquire identification documents and participate fully in Kenya's democratic processes.

The MP reaffirmed his commitment to working with national Government agencies to promote people-centred development and improve service delivery across Garsen Constituency



Garsen MP, Hon. Ali Wario, Coast Regional Commissioner Paul Rotich and Regional Police Commander Ali Nuno at the official opening of the Assistant County Commissioner's (ACC) Office for Garsen Central Division at Kipao Village

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KLRC on the spot over Ksh2.1 million unauthorised expenditure

The Kenya Law Reform Commission (KLRC) has come under scrutiny over Sh2.1 million in expenditure incurred above approved budget allocations without the requisite authorisation.

Appearing before the Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education, chaired by Hon. Dick Maungu, KLRC officials were questioned over audit queries covering the 2018/19 to 2024/25 financial years, particularly expenditure on Commission activities, repairs and maintenance.

According to the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG), KLRC spent KSh20.6 million against an approved KSh18.5 million allocation for commission expenses, resulting in an over-expenditure of KSh2.1 million.

The commission also spent KSh3 million against an approved KSh2.6 million allocation for repairs and maintenance, exceeding the budget by about Sh400,000, or 15 per cent.

Director of Audit at the OAG Ms. Margaret Wambui told MPs that KLRC had failed to obtain approval for the necessary budget re-allocations before transferring funds between expenditure lines.

"The main issue here is just about the budget reallocation, which they did not do," Ms Wambui said.

Former acting KLRC Secretary/CEO Justice Peter Musyimi, however, said the commission had remained within its overall budget. He said KLRC had an approved budget of KSh292.66 million and spent approximately KSh291.99 million.

He attributed the apparent overspending to reclassification of expenditure between the secretariat and commission accounts following audit recommendations.

But MPs rejected the explanation, insisting that compliance with the overall budget did not authorise spending beyond individual approved allocations.

Central Imenti MP, Hon. Moses Kirima, questioned KLRC's spending of KSh3 million against the approved KSh2.6 million for repairs and maintenance, while Narok County MP, Hon. Rebecca Tonkei, said the Commission should have sought approval before reallocating funds.

KLRC Head of Finance Mr. Cornelius Musangi said the expenditure had been approved under different lines but was later reclassified using Government Finance Statistics codes and accounting standards.



Chairperson of the National Assembly Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education and Luanda MP, Hon. Dick Maungu during a Committee sitting at Bunge Towers

Justice Musyimi undertook to provide minutes showing that the commission subsequently ratified the expenditure.

The Committee said it would consider the matter further before making its final report, with Hon. Maungu warning that officers found responsible for improper expenditure could be surcharged.

This week in history

Mr. Moses Wetang'ula: The Lawyer Behind the 1982 Coup Trials



The Speaker of the National Assembly Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula (right) in his younger days. He became a prominent face when he took up the cases of the Airforce crew that were facing treason charges for the 1982 coup plot

Moses Wetang'ula is a celebrated Kenyan lawyer who rose to national prominence in the early 1980s for his bold legal defense of air force personnel accused of treason following the failed August 1, 1982 coup attempt against President Daniel arap Moi.

The coup, led by junior air force officers, was swiftly suppressed, leading to mass arrests and a brutal military crackdown. Hundreds of servicemen were detained, and many faced treason charges—an offense carrying the death penalty. At a time when political repression was severe and defendants had little access to fair representation, Wentagula stepped forward. He took on the complex and highly sensitive cases of these airmen, risking his own safety and reputation.

His vigorous defense challenged the state's case, exposing procedural flaws and coercion during interrogations.

While many were convicted and executed, Wentagula's relentless advocacy saved several lives and exposed the injustices of the military tribunal system. His work cemented his legacy as a fearless defender of human rights, rule of law, and due process in Kenya's darkest era.

Today, he remains a respected figure in Kenya's legal fraternity, remembered for his courage in standing up for the voiceless against an authoritarian state.

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

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