MPs form Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Caucus to champion immunization financing On PG 5 ▸

BUNGE Weekly

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

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Monday, March 16th, 2026 to Monday, March 23rd, 2026

Judges' Retirement Benefits Bill signed to law ending decades-old pension gap



FILE PHOTO: President William Ruto signs a Bill presented to him by the Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Samuel Njoroge. Looking on are National Assembly Speaker, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula, Leader of the Majority Party , Hon, Kimani Ichung'wah and Majority Deputy Whip, Hon. Naomi Waqo

Counties set for Kshs.420 billion after MPs pass Division of Revenue Bill

The National Assembly has approved the Division of Revenue Bill, 2026, paving way for the sharing of Kshs.2.901 trillion in nationally raised revenue between the national and county governments for the 2026/2027 financial year.

The Bill, which is anchored on Article 218 of the Constitution of Kenya, sets out the vertical sharing of revenue between the two levels of government as part of the annual budget cycle.

Moving the Bill during Second Reading, the Budget and Appropriations Committee Chairperson, Hon. Samuel Atandi said "The purpose of this Bill is to allocate resources raised nationally between the County Governments and the National Government."

According to the Bill, the total shareable revenue, estimated at Kshs.2.901 trillion, will be distributed as follows:

In addition, the Bill provides Kshs.5.6 billion to partially clear arrears owed to the Equalisation Fund, bringing the total allocation to the Fund to Kshs.15.2 billion.

The Equalisation Fund, established under Article 204 of the Constitution, is intended to finance basic services such as water, roads, health facilities and electricity in marginalised areas using 0.5 per cent of nationally collected

TURN TO PAGE 2



THE TOTAL SHAREABLE REVENUE, ESTIMATED AT KSHS.2.901 TRILLION

- **Kshs.2.472 trillion** – National Government share
- **Kshs.420 billion** – County Governments' equitable share
- **Kshs.9.6 billion** – Equalisation Fund

PLENARY

Lawmakers push for enhanced security of critical power infrastructure



National Assembly Energy Committee in a meeting with officials from the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum during the consideration of 2025/2026 FY Supplementary Estimates

The National Assembly Departmental Committee on Energy has been alerted to rising cases of vandalism targeting key power transmission lines and installations across the country, a situation officials warn is driving maintenance costs to unsustainable levels.

Speaking during deliberations on the 2025/2026 Supplementary Estimates I, Principal Secretary (PS) in the State Department for Energy, Mr. Alex Wachira informed the Committee that the destruction of power infrastructure has become a major challenge to the energy sector, threatening progress made in expanding and strengthening the country's electricity network.

He noted that inadequate funding for security has further complicated efforts to curb the vice.

According to the PS, cases of vandalism have particularly intensified following the lifting of the moratorium on scrap metal trade in 2022, a move that he said inadvertently opened the door for increased destruction of energy infrastructure.

"Criminals often target power lines and other installations in search of metal components which they later sell as scrap," Mr. Wachira stated.

He emphasized the need for enhanced surveillance and security measures to safeguard electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, warning that continued destruction of power lines not only disrupts electricity supply but also places an additional financial burden on the government.

Committee Chairperson Hon. David Gikaria (Nakuru East) while acknowledging the seriousness of the matter called for the development of comprehensive security strategies to protect power installations across the country.

"It is a concern to us as well, and a long-lasting solution must be sought to safeguard these critical public infrastructure," Hon. Gikaria said.

The PS urged the Committee to ensure resources are availed to enable them strengthen the power policing program that will see a dedicated police unit towards protecting power installations across the country,

The deliberations come at a time when the government continues to invest heavily in energy projects aimed at supporting economic growth and improving nationwide electricity connectivity.

FROM PAGE 1



The Chairperson of the Budget and Appropriation Committee, Hon. Samuel Atandi moving the Division of Revenue Bill, 2026 in the National Assembly

revenue based on the most recent audited accounts.

While seconding the Bill, Hon. Makali Mulu said the legislation was informed by the recently approved Budget Policy Statement but raised concerns about delays in auditing national accounts used to determine county allocations.

"With the latest approval, we are now using the 2022/2023 figures, which are four years behind, meaning the figures do not really reflect the current reality on the ground," he said.

He also urged the National Treasury to ensure timely release of funds to counties. "Once we approve these figures, the national government through the Treasury should make an effort to release the funds as passed in the Act so that counties can implement their plans," he added.

Contributing to the debate, Hon. Wilberforce Oundo supported the Bill but called for faster processing of audit reports to ensure counties receive their rightful share.

"We are using accounts that are four years late and therefore denying counties their rightful share," Dr. Oundo said, urging parliamentary committees to fast-track the review of public audit reports.

Members also called for stronger accountability in the use of devolved funds and emphasised the need to prioritise social services such as health and early childhood education at the county level.

The Division of Revenue Bill will proceed to the Senate for consideration. Any differences between the two Houses will be resolved through a mediation process.

The Bill sets the stage for the subsequent County Allocation of Revenue Bill, which distributes the county share among the 47 counties.

National Treasury to

Judges' Retirement Benefits Bill signed to law ending decades-old pension gap

(CONTINUED) FROM PAGE 1



President William Ruto (centre), displays an Act of Parliament after assenting to it. With him are National Assembly leaders led by the Speaker, Hon. Moses Wetang'ula and Majority Leader, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, among others as well as other Members of the Executive

President William Ruto has assented to the Judges' Retirement Benefits Bill, 2025.

The Bill, sponsored by Majority Leader Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, establishes a modern framework to provide pensions and other retirement benefits for judges serving in the country's superior courts. For decades, judges were the only State officers still relying on the outdated Pensions Act of 1946, even as other public servants and constitutional office holders received updated retirement schemes.

The new law addresses a reform effort that has been under discussion for more than 30 years. Several commissions and task forces had previously recommended the creation of a dedicated retirement benefits framework for judges, including the Kotut Report of 1992, the Justice Kwach Report of 1998, and the Justice Bosire Task Force Report of 2007, among others. However, those proposals had remained largely unimplemented until now.

The Bill's development was spearheaded by an inter-ministerial task force established by the Judiciary and chaired under the guidance of Chief Justice Martha Koome. The task force brought together representatives from the Judiciary, the National Treasury, the Directorate of Pensions, and the Office of the Attorney-General to craft a comprehensive retirement benefits structure tailored to judicial service.

Cabinet approved the introduction of the Bill in March 2025, paving the way for its formal consideration in Parliament. Lawmakers in the National Assembly debated and passed the Bill with amendments on February 25, 2025, in accordance with Article 109(3) of the Constitution.

The new law is expected to enhance the security and dignity of judges after retirement, aligning their benefits with those of other State officers and bringing Kenya's judicial welfare framework in line with modern governance standards.

Speaker Wetang'ula calls for tougher road safety laws after Webuye crash



National Assembly Speaker, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula addresses the press flanked by Bungoma Governor Kenneth Lusaka, Bungoma Senator, Wafula Wakoli and Webuye East MP, Hon. Martin Wanyonyi on Wednesday, 12th March, 2026, during a visit to Webuye County Hospital to check on the victims of the tragic accid



National Assembly Speaker, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula and Bungoma County leaders checking on the patients of the tragic accident that occurred at Malaha junction along the Webuye Kitale Road on Wednesday, 12th March, 2026, during a visit to Webuye County Hospital

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula has urged Members of Parliament to tighten laws governing the country's transport sector in a bid to curb rising road accidents.

Speaking in Bungoma after visiting victims of the tragic Malaha Junction crash in Webuye Sub-County on Wednesday, 12th March 2026, the Speaker pointed out the need for the country to urgently address the growing loss of lives on Kenyan roads.

"We condemn the recklessness of the truck driver who caused 15 deaths in the tragic Malaha Junction accident. It is devastating that more than 21 people remain admitted in various hospitals, with two requiring urgent specialised treatment," said Hon.Wetang'ula.

Dr. Wetang'ula said the national government had facilitated the referral of the two critically injured patients for specialised care and assured families of support from the State. President William Ruto, he added, had pledged government assistance to the bereaved families and those receiving treatment.

Hon. Wetang'ula also called on the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) to intensify enforcement and ensure reckless drivers are removed from Kenyan roads.

He further urged courts to impose firm penalties on offenders, saying road users must be held

The Speaker announced the formation of a funeral committee led by Webuye East MP Marthin Wanyonyi Pepela and Bungoma Woman Representative Catherine Wambilianga to coordinate burial arrangements for the victims.

At Webuye County Referral Hospital, Medical Superintendent Dr. David Wanikina said several patients were still receiving treatment, with two requiring specialised care. The facility is working with the Kenya Red Cross to provide psychosocial support to victims and families.

A Special Mass will be held in Webuye town on Monday, 16th March, 2026 to honour the deceased and pray for the recovery of survivors.

accountable for negligence.

MPs head to Moscow for talks on Kenyans lured to Russian warfront

The National Assembly will send three Committee Chairpersons on an official visit to Moscow as Kenya intensifies efforts to curb fraudulent recruitment agencies accused of luring young Kenyans into the Russian military.

National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula said the House had approved Hon. Nelson Koech, Chair, Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations, Hon. Lydia Haika, Chair, Diaspora Affairs and Migrant Workers Committee and Hon. Ken Chonga, Chair, Committee on Labour as part of a delegation to Russia.

The announcement came as Defence Committee Chair and Belgut MP Hon. Nelson Koech raised concerns over the growing number of Kenyan youths reportedly recruited to fight for Russia, warning that many have died after being drawn into the war through deceptive employment offers.

Hon. Koech described the issue as deeply troubling for many families across the country.

"This is a very emotive matter that affects us, especially when we read and hear about young people who take up those jobs and end up dying," he told the House.

According to the legislator, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a delegation from the National Assembly is scheduled to undertake an official visit to Moscow from March 13 to 17 to engage Russian authorities on measures to stop rogue employment agencies targeting Kenyan job seekers.

"We hope to bring the matter to a finality and to not only protect the welfare and rights of Kenyans, but also the sanctity of life of Kenyans in Russia," he said.

The Government has already begun engaging the Russian Embassy in Nairobi to address the growing concern over recruitment schemes targeting Kenyan youths seeking employment opportunities abroad.

The authorities are also tracking the whereabouts of Kenyans reported missing by their families after travelling to Russia.

In addition, the Government has intensified public awareness campaigns to warn citizens against fraudulent job offers abroad.

The sensitisation is being conducted through the media, social media platforms, chiefs' barazas, educational institutions and labour mobility pre-departure training programmes.

The Government has also introduced several measures aimed at protecting Kenyan workers overseas, including bilateral labour agreements, ratification of international labour conventions and continuous registration of Kenyans living abroad.



Belgut MP Nelson Koech, Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations, during a past Committee session.

Bleeding disorder patients seek Parliament's intervention as donor support dwindles

The National Assembly has received a petition seeking urgent intervention to address the growing crisis facing patients living with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders in Kenya, amid fears that donor-funded treatment programmes could soon collapse.

Speaker Moses Wetang'ula told MPs that his office had received the petition from James Kago, Treasurer of the Kenya Haemophilia Association, calling for action to improve diagnosis, treatment and funding for the rare but life-threatening condition.

The Speaker referred the matter to the Departmental Committee on Health, chaired by Seme Hon (Dr.) James Nyikal, saying the issue was too technical for the Public Petitions Committee.

"This matter is too complicated for the Public Petitions Committee. I want to refer it to the Departmental Committee on Health," Hon. Wetang'ula said.



Seme MP Hon. (Dr.) James Nyikal, Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Health, during a committee session at County Hall, Parliament Buildings

Haemophilia is a hereditary disorder in which the blood lacks sufficient clotting factors, making it difficult for bleeding to stop. Patients can suffer spontaneous internal bleeding, especially in joints and muscles, which can lead to disability or death.

The petition says the condition affects about one in every 10,000 people globally. In Kenya, an estimated 4,500 people are believed to be living with haemophilia, but only 1,265 about 23 per cent have been diagnosed, highlighting the need for nationwide screening and early detection.

It further warns that treatment in Kenya heavily depends on donor support, which currently provides clotting factor concentrates used to control bleeding.

The donations cover only about 30 per cent of the treatment needs for diagnosed patients and are expected to end within two years.

Without the medication, families often rely on blood-derived products that require hospital admission and carry higher risks of complications.

The petition also cites the shortage of specialised treatment centres, noting that services are largely concentrated at Kenyatta National Hospital and Mbagathi County Referral Hospital calling for the establishment of additional haemophilia treatment centres in referral hospitals.

Majority leader, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah supported the petition and called for haemophilia to be recognised as a disabling condition to enable patients to benefit from support through the National Council for Persons with Disabilities and the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF).

MPs form Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Caucus to champion immunization financing



Molo MP. Hon. Kimani Kuria addressing Members of Parliament from both Houses and officials from Health NGOs Network (HENNET) and the Global Health Advocacy Incubator on 12th March 2026.



Members of Parliament from both the National Assembly and the Senate pose for a photo with officials from Health NGOs Network (HENNET) and the Global Health Advocacy Incubator after formation of the MNCH caucus on 12th March, 2026.

Members of Parliament from both National Assembly and Senate have elected officials to lead the Caucus on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) to champion sustainable domestic immunization financing.

In a meeting with the Health NGOs Network (HENNET) and the Global Health Advocacy Incubator, Hon. Kimani Kuria (Molo) was elected as the Chairperson, Hon. Irene Mayaka and Senator Consolata Wakwabubi both nominated elected as Co-Chairs and Hon. Dorice Donya (Kisii) and Hon. Jackson Kosgei (nominated) as the Whips.

The elected leaders will provide strategic direction of the caucus, champion effective legislation, sustainable domestic financing, parliamentary oversight and multi-sectoral collaboration in support of a resilient, integrated maternal, newborn and child health system anchored in strong primary healthcare.

The formation of the Parliamentary Caucus follows the Istanbul Call to Action outcome that brought together Parliamentarians from 10 countries with Kenya represented by Hon. Dr. James Nyikal (Seme) and Hon. Dr. Robert Pukose (Endebess).

Speaking in the meeting, HENNET Executive Director, Dr. Margaret Lubaale underscored the critical role of MPs in the Budget allocations and legislative frameworks, noting that sustainable immunization financing is a matter of national development, economic stability, and social justice.

Caucus Chairperson, Hon. Kimani Kuria emphasized the need to elevate immunization financing with key Committees of Parliament.

"We need our voices to be heard in the right place. We must engage the Health and Budget & Appropriations Committees to establish how much was allocated during the 2026 Budget Policy Statement, which anchors the FY 2026/27 Budget," Hon. Kuria said.

In her acceptance speech, Hon. Irene Mayaka expressed her gratitude to the fellow legislators for electing her as the Co-Chair and called for collective input and support to advance the caucus agenda.

"I want to assure the Legislators that I shall do my level best in pushing conversations with other MPs and even in the Liaison Committee. Let us take advantage of the 2026/27 Budget cycle to fix this issue," Hon. Mayaka said.

Kenya, Australia to deepen ties in mining, trade and investments says Speaker Wetang'ula



National Assembly Speaker Hon. Moses Wetang'ula holds discussions with Australia's High Commissioner to Kenya, Jenny Da Rin, during a courtesy call engagement at Parliament building on Thursday, 12th March 2026

Kenya and Australia are set to boost bilateral cooperation through parliamentary diplomacy, with a focus on expanding collaboration in mining, trade, and investment.

National Assembly Speaker Hon. Moses Wetang'ula said the two nations are committed to strengthening their long-standing relations while exploring new opportunities for economic and institutional partnership.

The Speaker spoke at Parliament Buildings recently when he hosted Australia's High Commissioner to Kenya, Jenny Da Rin, during talks aimed at enhancing cooperation between the two countries.

Hon. Wetang'ula noted that Australia's globally recognised mining sector, backed by advanced technology and strong regulatory frameworks, offers valuable lessons for Kenya as it continues to develop its own mining industry.

"Kenya has made significant strides in the establishment of the Mining Act, and high-level collaboration between the two countries in the mining sector is highly encouraged," he said.

To further strengthen parliamentary diplomacy, the Speaker said the National Assembly had established the Kenya–Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group to enhance engagement with the Australian Parliament.

He also acknowledged Australia's flexible student visa policies and scholarship programmes, which have enabled many Kenyans to pursue higher education in Australian universities.

Hon. Wetang'ula further noted that the Australian Trade and Investment Commission relocated its regional hub from South Africa to Nairobi in 2017, signalling growing economic ties.

Kenya has also partnered with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research in projects involving the Kenya Forestry Research Institute and the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization to promote climate-smart agriculture and develop drought-resistant crops.

Ambassador Da Rin said Kenya and Australia enjoy strong relations but emphasised the need for deeper engagement to expand economic cooperation and parliamentary collaboration.

According to government records, Kenya exported goods worth about $35.3 million to Australia in 2023, while imports stood at $118 million.

farming sector is highly encouraged," he said. projects involving the Kenya Forestry Research

COMMITTEES' ROUND-UP

Demand for government internships outstrips available slots, PSC tells MPs



Labour Committee Chairperson Ken Chonga (right) receives the Public Service Commission Strategic Plan 2025-2029 from the Commission's Chairperson Francis Meja during a committee meeting.

Demand for government internship opportunities has far exceeded the available slots, the Public Service Commission (PSC) has told the National Assembly Labour Committee, emphasizing a widening gap between applicants and positions offered under the Public Service Internship Programme (PSIP).

Appearing before the committee, the commission said thousands of young graduates continue to apply for placements each year but limited budgetary allocations have constrained its capacity to accommodate the growing demand.

Data presented by the PSC shows that since the programme was launched, a total of 278,857 graduates have applied, yet only 37,504 interns have been appointed across government institutions.

This is despite Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) declaring a need for 61,295 internship positions over the same period.

The commission said the figures demonstrate both the increasing popularity of the programme among graduates and the rising demand for skilled interns within the public sector.

"The demand for internship opportunities has continued to grow significantly, but the programme's capacity is constrained by the available budgetary resources," the commission told the committee.

Launched in August 2019, the Public Service Internship Programme was designed to equip graduates with practical workplace experience and ease their transition from academic training into employment.

Over the past seven years, the programme has admitted eight cohorts between 2019 and 2026, deploying interns to nearly 300 ministries, departments and agencies across the country.

However, the commission said funding limitations have made it difficult to meet requests from government institutions seeking interns to support service delivery.

Despite the challenges, PSC said the programme has played a critical role in preparing graduates for the job market.

"Through placements in public institutions, interns gain hands-on professional experience that enhances their competitiveness when seeking employment in both the public and private sectors," the commission said.

According to the PSC, about 15 per cent of interns who have gone through the programme have transitioned into formal employment within the public service, while many others have secured jobs in the private sector.

The commission urged Parliament to support increased funding for the programme in order to expand internship opportunities and bridge the gap between demand and available placements.

"Strengthening the programme through adequate funding will enable the government to support more graduates while also assisting institutions that rely on interns to build capacity and improve service delivery," the commission said.

New leaders elected as House reconstitutes key Committees

The National Assembly has elected new chairpersons and vice-chairpersons to various committees following the reconstitution of select committees at the start of the Fifth Session.

The Chairperson of the Liaison Committee, Hon. Gladys Boss informed the House that the elections were conducted after the approval of changes to committee membership aimed at accommodating newly elected Members of Parliament and strengthening parliamentary oversight.

Addressing the House, Hon. Boss noted, "At the commencement of the Fifth Session on February 10, 2026, you will recall that the Speaker informed this House that the terms of two sessional committees, the Committee on Members' Services and Facilities and the Committee on Parliamentary Powers and Privileges, had lapsed pursuant to our Standing Orders and practice."

Following the Speaker's directive, the Clerk of the National Assembly declared vacancies in the offices of chairperson of two sessional committees, the Committee on Members' Services and Facilities and the Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee.



Laikipia West MP, Hon. Dr Stephen Wachira Karani was elected Chairperson of the Committee on Members' Services and Facilities.

Vacancies were also declared in the offices of Vice-Chairperson for the Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education and the Committee on Members' Services and Facilities with elections held on March 3, 2026.

In the Committee on Members' Services and Facilities, Laikipia West MP, Hon. (Dr.) Wachira Karani was elected as Chairperson, with Yatta MP, Hon. Robert Basil elected to serve as the Vice-Chairperson.

For the Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee, Nandi Hills MP, Hon. Bernard Kitur was elected Chairperson, while the Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education entrusted newly elected Kasipul MP, Hon. Boyd Were to serve as Committee Vice-Chairperson.

In congratulating the newly elected leaders, Hon. Boss stated, "I urge the newly elected leaders to use their leadership offices to efficiently discharge the mandate of this House through their respective committees for the welfare of our people and the advancement of the prosperity of our country."

vacancies were also declared in the offices

Lawmakers query Kshs. 991 million request for Global Ocean Conference as Blue Economy Committee reviews budget proposals

The Blue Economy, Water and Irrigation has raised concerns over a proposal by the State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries seeking Kshs. 991 million to facilitate the hosting of the 11th Our Ocean Conference scheduled for June this year.

During a meeting to review Supplementary Estimates 1 for FY 2025/26, Members questioned the large allocation and sought clarification on the breakdown of the expenditure.

In response, Principal Secretary for the State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries, Ms. Betsy Njagi, told the committee that Kenya will be the lead planner and host of the conference, which will be held in Africa for the first time and is therefore responsible for coordinating the planning and logistical arrangements for the global event.

The State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries has an approved allocation of Kshs. 8.229 billion for the 2025/2026 Financial Year. However, Supplementary Estimates I increased the allocation by Kshs. 2.568 billion to Kshs. 10.798 billion.

The PS further requested an additional Kshs. 1.579 billion to cater for key priority areas, including preparations for the Our Ocean Conference and the settlement of pending bills.

The committee also met officials from the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation led by Cabinet Secretary Eng. Eric Mugaa, alongside PSs Mr. Julius Korir (Water and Sanitation) and CPA Ephantus Kimotho (Irrigation), who presented their respective budget proposals and ongoing programmes.

The State Department for Water and Sanitation reported that its overall allocation had increased by Kshs. 1.668 billion from the initial Kshs. 53.95 billion to Kshs. 55.62 billion. PS Korir requested an additional Kshs. 27.79 billion to fund critical projects aimed at improving water access and sanitation services across the country.

Meanwhile, the State Department for Irrigation received an additional allocation of Kshs. 3.795 billion, raising its budget from the initial Kshs. 7.548 billion provided in the Budget Estimates to Kshs. 11.343 billion.

PS Kimotho informed the committee that several irrigation projects risk being affected due to a reduction in donor funding amounting to Kshs. 451 million.



Chairperson, Blue Economy, Water and Irrigation Committee Hon. Kangogo Bowen seeks a clarification during the meeting with the MDAs on Thursday, March 12, 2026



Cabinet Secretary Eng. Eric Mugaa (right), alongside Principal Secretary for Water and Sanitation Mr. Julius Korir respond to Members' questions during the meeting to scrutinize the Supplementary Estimates 1 for FY 2025/26.

National Assembly approves Ambassadorial nominee to Denmark



Mr. Kosiom Frank Ole Kibelekenya, the incoming Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark, when he appeared before the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and

The National Assembly has approved the nomination of Mr. Kosiom Frank Ole Kibelekenya as Kenya's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark.

The approval follows vetting by the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations, which conducted the nominee's approval hearing on March 4, 2026.

In its report tabled before the House on March 10, 2026, the Committee found Mr. Kibelekenya suitable for the position, noting that he demonstrated the necessary qualifications, experience and integrity required to serve as Kenya's envoy in Copenhagen.

Presenting the report to the House, Committee Chairperson Hon. Nelson Koech said the nominee had expressed commitment to advancing Kenya's diplomatic and economic interests.

"Honourable Members, the Committee observed that the nominee expressed readiness to work closely with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs to advance Kenya's diplomatic and economic interests," said Hon. Koech.

The Committee further noted that during the approval hearing, Mr. Kibelekenya highlighted key priority areas he intends to pursue in strengthening relations between Kenya and Denmark.

"In particular, the nominee emphasized the importance of promoting trade, expanding education partnerships and enhancing development cooperation between Kenya and Denmark," Hon. Koech added.

Following the Committee's recommendation, the House approved the nomination, paving the way for Mr. Kosiom Frank Ole Kibelekenya to take up his diplomatic posting in Copenhagen.

> **"Honourable Members, the Committee observed that the nominee expressed readiness to work closely with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs to advance Kenya's diplomatic and economic interests," Hon. Koech**

Foreign Relations for Approval Hearings

Committee on Delegated Legislation approves regulations to create Kshs.2 billion kitty for DPP office

The Committee on Delegated Legislation, chaired by Hon. Samuel Chepkong'a (Ainabkoi), has approved regulations seeking to establish a special fund for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP).

Members of the Committee supported the creation of the independent fund with an initial capital of Sh2 billion, noting that the resources will help improve the timely delivery of justice to the public.

The decision was made during the consideration of the Public Finance Management (Public Prosecution Fund) Regulations, 2025.

Director of Public Prosecutions Renson Ingonga, accompanied by officers from his office, appeared before the Committee during the meeting.

The Statutory Instruments Act, 2013 gives the Hon. Chepkong'a-led Committee the legal authority to review, approve, or reject regulations, rules, and other laws made by government ministries and agencies, ensuring they follow the law and serve the interest of the public.

At the session, Mr Ingonga explained that the fund, to be known as the Public Prosecutions Fund, will support the ODPP in handling complex criminal investigations, prosecutions, and asset recovery efforts.

"The initial capital of the fund shall be Sh2 billion appropriated by the National Assembly in the 2026/2027 financial year," he said.

He added that the creation of the independent fund will enhance efficiency in the delivery of justice, strengthen the justice system, and support anti-corruption efforts.

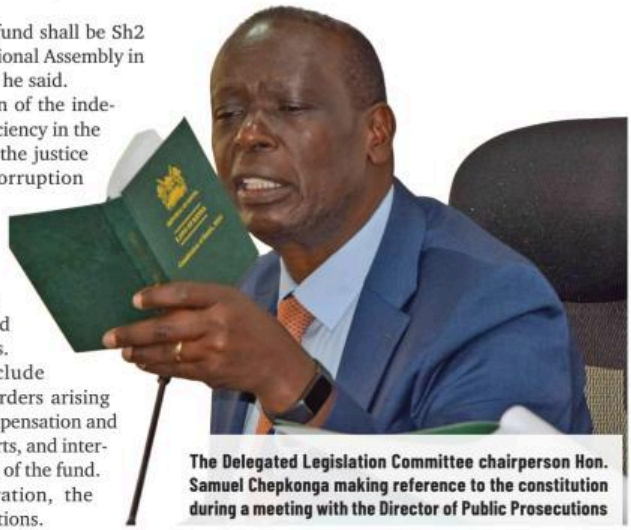
To ensure sustainability, Ingonga said the fund will also receive resources from grants and donations, deferred prosecution agreements, and proceeds from plea agreements.

Other sources will include proceeds from preservation orders arising from criminal proceedings, compensation and restitution orders issued by courts, and interest generated from investments of the fund.

After thorough consideration, the Committee adopted the regulations.

"We have reviewed the regulations and are satisfied that they conform to the law and comply with the Statutory Instruments Act, 2013," said Hon. Chepkong'a.

The Committee will now compile a report on the regulations and present it to the National Assembly for debate and approval.



The Delegated Legislation Committee chairperson Hon. Samuel Chepkonga making reference to the constitution during a meeting with the Director of Public Prosecutions

House Committee demands Accountability from SASRA, Nyayo Tea Zones, and Sports Kenya over staffing gaps, debts, and procurement irregularities



Hon. Emmanuel Wangwe, the Chairperson of the Public Investments Committee on Social Services Administration and Agriculture during a meeting with SASRA, NTZDC and Sports Kenya at Bunge Tower, Parliament Buildings

The National Assembly's Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration and Agriculture (PIC-SSAA) chaired by Hon. Emmanuel Wangwe (Navakholo) has grilled officials from the SACCO Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA), the Nyayo Tea Zones Development Corporation (NTZDC), and Sports Kenya over troubling audit queries raised in reports by the Auditor-General.

The Committee raised concerns over SASRA's significant staffing deficit, leading to operating below capacity. Despite an approved establishment of 145 staff members, the Authority currently employs only 93, leaving a 36 per cent vacancy gap, risking the undermining of effective regulation of the SACCO sector and overburdening existing staff.

However, SASRA CEO, Mr. David Sandagi defended the Authority's operations, noting that investments in technology had helped bridge the gap.

"We have implemented an Enterprise Resource Planning System and a Risk-based Supervision Platform, which have improved efficiency despite the staffing challenges," said Sandagi.

An inquiry arose over a Sh. 20 million bank guarantee issued by the Development Bank of Kenya to an IT consultancy firm that failed to deliver on its contract. Despite a favourable court ruling and arbitration outcome in SASRA's favour, the guarantee has remained unpaid since 2021.

"Under the Banking Act, such commitments should be honoured upon crystallisation. This guarantee has remained a mere piece of paper for four years," Hon. Wangwe said, directing SASRA to enforce its immediate recovery.

Auditors further flagged irregular prior-year adjustments amounting to Sh70.4 million in 2022 and Sh3.1 million in 2021, where the authority failed to disclose adjustments and restate opening balances as required under International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) where they acknowledged the omissions and promised corrective measures in subsequent financial statements.

On the Nyayo Tea Zones Development Corporation, lawmakers questioned management over outstanding debts exceeding Sh17 million owed by Emrok Tea Factory and Elgon Tea Factory.

Chief Executive Officer Dr. David Chepkwony explained that the Emrok debt resulted from emergency green leaf supplies in 2019 after farmers blocked the corporation's factory. However, MPs expressed concern over the Sh16 million owed by the non-operational Elgon Tea Factory and the corporation's failure to provide for doubtful debts.

The Committee also heard that about 3,000 tea bushes belonging to NTZDC were uprooted in Tharaka Nithi County during the construction of the Kirach Kiamuriuki–Gitogoto road, with compensation of Sh4.2 million pending bills after the county government claimed the bushes were on a road reserve.

At Sports Kenya, the Committee scrutinised the award of a Sh45.8 billion stadium construction contract to China Road and Bridge Corporation through direct procurement despite the project's original approved funding being Sh35 billion.

The Committee's Vice-Chairperson Hon. Caleb Amisi (Saboti) dismissed the justification that urgency warranted bypassing competitive bidding.

Lawmakers also questioned the transfer of Sh2 billion from Sports Kenya to the Ministry of Defence to implement the project, terming the arrangement irregular with Ndhiwa MP, Hon. Martin Owino, questioning how payments for a Sports Kenya project could be processed through another Ministry.

"These projects are important for our youth, but they must not be completed at an exorbitant price. This Committee will not allow Sports Kenya to be used as a puppet for the parent ministry," warned Hon. Wangwe.

vacancy gap, risking the undermining of effective Chief Executive Officer Dr. David Chepkwony warned Hon. Wangwe.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



If we want a strong economy, even as we review the Budget Policy Statement, we must adjust our focus based on the economic conditions we face. Our projections should be realistic and grounded in actual past performance. For years we have asked the Treasury to support this House in improving budget planning. It is important that we now move toward itemizing our budgets. With the digital payment systems we have adopted, it should be easier for the country to understand and expand its revenue base."

-Hon. Beatrice Elachi (Dagoretti North)



A big percentage of the pending bills in the country is owed by county governments. Many counties fail to pay suppliers, especially after a change of leadership. When a new governor takes office, they often introduce new projects while those started by the previous administration stall.

Government operates on the principle of continuity. Any new administration should ensure that projects started by the previous governor are completed. Contractors working with counties are Kenyan citizens. Many of them borrow loans from banks to finance these projects."

-Hon. Bowen Kangogo (Marakwet East)



If we are not cautious, the issue of county governments could become another curse in this country. When we talk about Singapore, there are counties that may not reach that level within the allocated time because the leadership may be the wrong leadership in those counties.

As time goes by, we may need to consider whether the Budget Policy Statement can give us an opportunity to pay pending bills from Nairobi instead of leaving it to the counties."

-Hon. Joseph Namuar (Turkana Central)



One of the biggest reasons we face a fiscal deficit is our Constitution. We adopted and promulgated a very expensive Constitution, which contributes to the challenges we face today. Living standards in Kenya have declined compared to ten years ago. Many Kenyans are becoming poorer, the middle class is shrinking, and few can access good health, wealth, or generate income comfortably. If you look at all constitutional offices that depend on taxpayers, it is not sustainable. I don't want to dim our dream that we are going to Singapore, but something must be done."

-Hon. Flowrence Jematiah (Baringo County)



Let me be on record that I oppose the planned sale of the Government of Kenya's shares in Safaricom. And I am not just opposing, but I have my reasons. Mainly because Safaricom is a key national economic pillar for this nation, having employed thousands or millions of people both informally and formally, with transactions of millions, especially in the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector. Selling such a strategic national asset would be a grave mistake.

-Hon. Muhia Wanjiku (Kipipiri)



Flooding in Nairobi has become a recurring crisis that we can no longer ignore. Every time it rains, lives, businesses, and property are lost because of poor drainage and outdated infrastructure built decades ago. It is time for both the national and county governments to work together and fix this problem once and for all. The recent cooperation signed with the National Government offers hope, but real action is needed so that our city no longer turns into a lake whenever it rains."

-Hon. Amos Mwago (Starehe)



Kenya is ranked among the most corrupt countries in Africa, and perhaps maybe even in the whole world. Many times when we talk about corruption, we describe it purely as a disease, a cancer that eats away at public resources.

It is sad that most of the avenues used to pilfer public resources are special funds created by the government for specific purposes. This must stop. Kenyans also lack awareness of the existence of funds."

-Hon. Danson Mwashako (Wundanyi)



While we discuss sexual offences in our country, let us not forget that young boys are also being raped and sodomised. They also deserve protection. Many rapes occur within families, yet these crimes are often hidden. As we promote sensitization and education, such cases should not be handled privately; offenders must face the courts. Through this House, we must enact laws and raise awareness to ensure sexual offenders are treated like other serious criminals. They rob the future of a child, a woman, or anyone whose life and dreams are destroyed by their actions."

-Hon. Anne Muratha (Kiambu County)



I do not know what has happened in this country. Boys are being defiled, yet the focus is often only on girls. Boys too are abused, sometimes by fellow men. We need comprehensive sex education in schools so children can understand and protect themselves. Many remain silent out of fear, but they will speak out if they know the State will safeguard them. Defilement is widespread, and we must protect all people, both children and adults, from such crimes."

-Hon. Elizabeth Kajiemia (Meru County)



We support the collaboration between the national government and the County Government of Nairobi to help mitigate some of the challenges the county has not been able to adequately fund. These include drainage and garbage collection. We are also talking about housing. We are talking about water and even health. From the onset, counties must ensure that when more funds are allocated to them, the work is done."

-Hon. Phelix Odiwuor (Lang'ata)





BUNGE MASHINANI

JOMVU CONSTITUENCY

Hon. Badi launches construction of Mreroni assistant chief office

Jomvu MP Hon. Badi Twalib has laid a foundation stone for the construction of the Mreroni sub location assistant chief's office at Mbuyu wa Chapa in Jomvu Kuu ward, funded by the local NG-CDF.

The MP noted that this were among the several infrastructural projects to be undertaken for the local administration that reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening grassroots administration and improving service delivery.

Addressing residents during the event Hon. Badi stated: "A strong local administration is the backbone of effective service delivery. By investing in such infrastructure, we are reaffirming our commitment to responsive leadership, improved security coordination, and seamless interaction between government officers and the community while improving access to services by wananchi," he said.

Later, Hon Badi commissioned four newly constructed classrooms at Mreroni Comprehensive school aimed at easing congestion and enhancing the learning environment.

"These classrooms are more than just structures; they are gateways to opportunity, hope and a brighter future for our children," he stated



Hon. Twalib in one of the newly launched classroom at Mreronii Comprehensive

NORTH HORR CONSTITUENCY

Over 500 starving residents receive relief food



Residents of Balesa receiving relief food

Starving families in Balesi and neighbouring Yaa Sharbana areas in North Horr constituency have benefitted from relief food supplied to them by their MP Hon. Wario Adhe Guyo.

Hon Guyo came to the rescue of the families who have been going without food due to the drought that had destroyed food crops in the area.

"I have been moved by the plight of the starving residents especially children. This is why I have decided to provide food support to them to cushion them from the untold suffering," said Hon. Guyo as he gave out the commodity.

He added: "The distribution of the relief food comes at a critical time, helping ease pressure on search for daily meals and protecting vulnerable families from deeper hardship".

Residents expressed gratitude to Hon. Guyo for the support.

NYERI COUNTY

Hon. Mukami disburses Ksh3.5 million to support needy students' education

Hon. Rahab Mukami (Nyeri County) has disbursed Ksh3.5 million in bursaries to support students from the county pursuing education at various levels.

Speaking during the cheque presentation, Hon. Mukami said the support aims to ensure that no child is denied education because of financial challenges.

"Every child deserves education despite the background they come from," she said.

She added: "Through this support, we want to ensure that students from Nyeri can continue with their studies uninterrupted and without discrimination."

The funds were issued through the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF), which targets learners from vulnerable and low-income families.

"My office remains focused on ensuring that all students within Nyeri County from poor backgrounds are assisted to access education like their colleagues from able families," said Hon. Mukami



Hon. Rahab Mukami with a dummy cheque at the event

RONGO CONSTITUENCY

Rongo residents lauds Hon. Abuor for enhancing electricity connectivity



Rongo MP Hon. Paul Abuor and Energy Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi switch on electricity in the home of a resident during the launch of the Last Mile Connectivity programme in Rongo Constituency, marking a major step in expanding access to

Residents of Rongo constituency, Migori county have praised their MP Hon. Paul Abuor for spearheading electricity connectivity programme that have transformed lives across the constituency.

Through the national government's Last Mile Connectivity Programme, many homes and trading centres that were in the dark due to lack of electricity are now connected to the national grid, boosting economic activity and improving security

the welfare of residents and helping in dealing with insecurity.

"Electricity is a catalyst for development. My goal is to ensure every home and business in Rongo has access to power so that our people can grow economically," he said.

Local residents say the project has already begun changing their livelihoods.

"For many years we lived in darkness, but now our shops can operate longer and our children can study at night," said Jane Atieno, a trader in

power and improving livelihoods in the area.

activity and improving security.

Hon. Abuor said the initiative is part of his commitment to improving

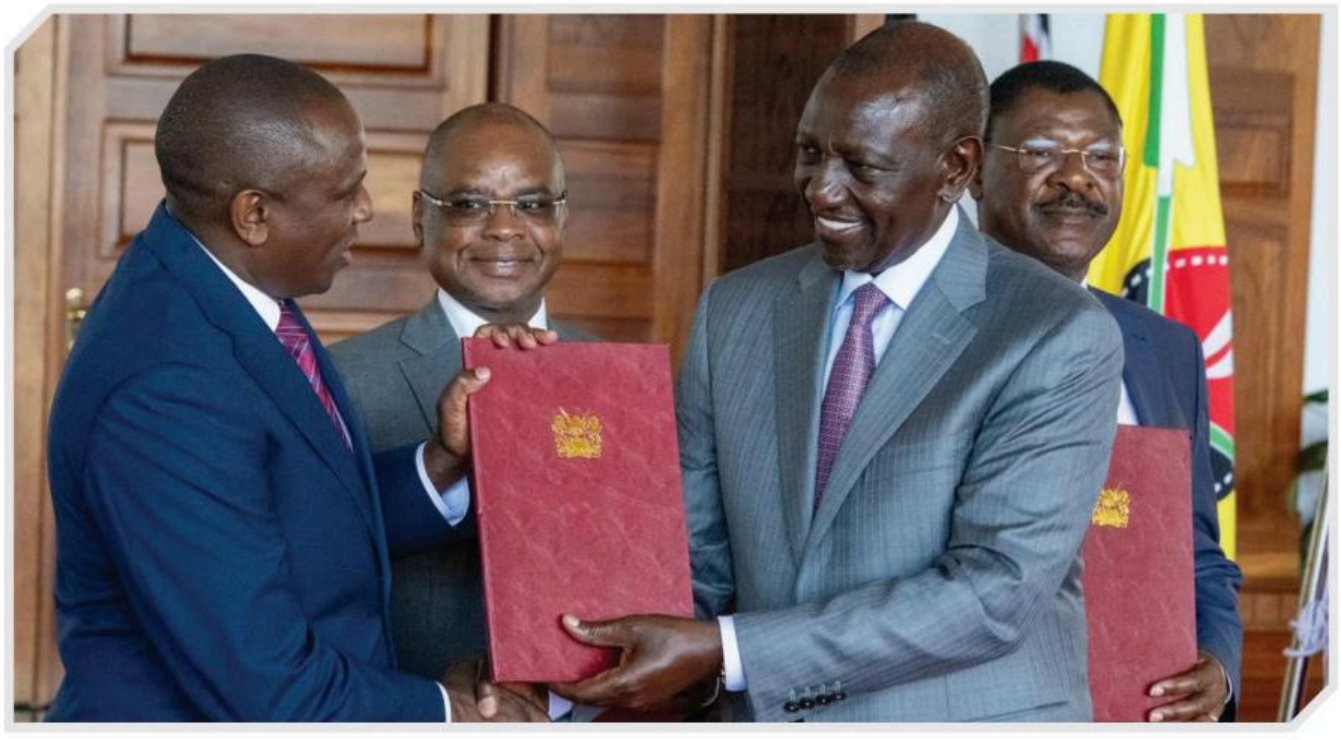
night," said Jane Atieno, a trader in Rongo town.



The Vice Chairperson of the Public Petitions Committee, Hon. Janet Sitienei (far left), the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa (second left), the Chairperson of the Public Petitions Committee, Hon. Muchangi Karemba (second right), and the Principal Secretary for the State Department of Forestry, Mr. Gitonga Mugambi (far right), share a light moment after the CS appeared before the Committee to present submissions on a petition



Hon. Musa Sirma, the chairperson Committee on National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF), joins a female dancer for a jig during entertainment session when he led Committee Members on an inspection tour of projects financed by the Fund in his Eldama Ravine constituency backyard recently



H.E President William Ruto (right) shares a light moment with National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wah (left) as he assents to the Coffee Bill (Senate Bill No. 10 of 2023) at State House, Nairobi, on March 13, 2026. Looking on are Senate Speaker Amason Kingi (second left) and his National Assembly counterpart Moses Wetang'ula

BUNGE Weekly
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This week in history

On 11 March 2008, the National Assembly of Kenya commenced the process that enabled the swift enactment of legislation implementing the National Accord and Reconciliation Agreement, the political settlement that ended the 2007–2008 post-election crisis.

During the sitting of that day, Members of Parliament debated and adopted a motion to reduce the statutory publication period for key bills required to implement the Accord, allowing the House to expedite their introduction and debate.

The motion was moved by Ugenya MP, Hon. James Orengo and seconded by Justice and Constitutional Affairs Minister, Hon. Martha Karua, noting the urgency of restoring political stability following weeks of nationwide unrest.



President Mwai Kibaki (center, left) and ODM leader Raila Odinga (center, right) shake hands at the steps of Harambee House after signing the National Accord and Reconciliation Act. The deal, brokered by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan (second left), ended two months of post-election violence and established the Grand Coalition Government. Join- ing them are Panel of Eminent African Personalities members Graça Machel (far left) and former Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa (far right). Looking on in the background are members of the mediation teams, including President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. President Jakaya Kikwete, and Kenyan negotiators.

Lawmakers resolved to shorten this period to five days for the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2008 and the National Accord and Reconciliation Bill, 2008. The House moved rapidly in debating and passing the legislation necessary to implement the power-sharing arrangement agreed upon by President Mwai Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga under the mediation of former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

The legislation that followed created the Office of the Prime Minister and two Deputy Prime Ministers, formally establishing a coalition government designed to stabilize the country and promote national reconciliation.

MP seeks statement over continued withholding of students' academic certificates

MP seeks statement over continued withholding of students' academic certificates

Mandera South MP, Hon. Abdul Haro has sought a statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Education regarding reports that heads of institutions are still withholding student academic certificates due to fees arrears despite clear government directives requiring their release to learners.

Raising the matter in the House, Hon. Haro noted that the law is explicit on the matter and prohibits any person or institution from retaining the documents once they have been issued by the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC).

"Section 10(1)(b) of the Kenya National Examination Council Act provides that once a certificate is issued, no person or institution can lawfully withhold such certificate," Hon. Haro told the House.



Mandera South MP, Hon. Abdul Haro during a previous sitting of the Departmental Committee on Education at Parliament Buildings.

Despite the directive and the existing legal provisions, he said parents and students continue to report cases where schools are withholding the certificates and attaching conditions such as clearance of outstanding fees balances before release.

The legislator argued that the practice undermines the constitutional rights of learners and denies them opportunities to pursue further education or employment.

In his request, Hon. Haro asked the Education Committee to provide a comprehensive report on the number of national examination certificates currently being withheld by schools across the country.

The MP sought an explanation from the Committee on the administrative, supervisory, or disciplinary actions taken by the Ministry of Education and the Teachers Service Commission against institutions found to be contravening the directive.

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This Week in History segment compiled by the Parliamentary Research Service

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