Kenya risks losing AFCON hosting rights On PG 8

BUNGE Weekly

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

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Monday, March 23rd, 2026 to Monday, March 30th, 2026

New law to increase funding and accountability for rail infrastructure



President H.E Dr William Ruto and National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula display the new law at State House Nairobi, looking on is the National Assembly Majority Leader Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah

President William Ruto has signed into law the Miscellaneous Fees and Levies (Amendment) Act, 2025, paving the way for a significant change in how the country finances, manages, and expands railway infrastructure.

The law, sponsored by Majority Leader Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, broadens the scope of the Railway Development Levy beyond the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), enabling funding for a larger network of rail projects across the country.

The Act establishes a structured financing system by creating the Railway Development Levy Fund, a dedicated account where all levy proceeds will be deposited.

This ring-fencing of funds is expected to improve transparency, prevent misuse, and ensure that collections are specifically directed towards railway development and maintenance.

The Act also establishes a Railway Development Fund Board, a corporate entity responsible for managing the Fund. The Board will set strategic priorities, approve budgets and programs, and ensure the responsible use of resources, adding a layer of institutional accountability that was absent in previous arrangements.

The new law now permits proceeds from the levy to be used not only for new railway construction

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PLENARY

Speaker leads Parliament in mourning Hon. Kamket son, Kassait Jr.

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula led Parliament in mourning with Hon. William Kamket (Tiaty) last week on Friday, following the untimely demise of his son Ballot Bill Kassait Jnr.

Together with his deputy Hon. Gladys Boss and a delegation of MPs, the Speaker conveyed his message of condolences to the family at their home in Nairobi, expressing the difficulty and pain that comes with the loss of such a young soul.

"I bring condolences of my family, Parliament and friends who are not able to come here. I want to encourage you to believe and turn to God for comfort." the Speaker said. Adding that, "We are here with my deputy who is an extremely compassionate woman. When I lost my mum, she came to my home and stayed with us for two weeks."

Speaker Wetang'ula affirmed his close friendship with Hon. Kamket , a bond he says developed way back when the bereaved MP still served as a Parliamentary staff member, before he ventured into Baringo County politics.

The late Kassait Jnr whose requiem mass was held last week on Thursday will be laid to rest at their home in Tiaty, Baringo County today Monday, 23rd March, 2026.



The Speaker signs the condolence book at Hon. Kamket's family home, standing next to him from left is; Hon. Benard Kitur (Nandi Hills), the Deputy Speaker Hon. Boss, Hon. Cynthia Muge (Nandi County) and Hon. Irene Mayaka (Nominated)

MPs demand urgent action as road carnage sparks fresh safety debate

Members of the National Assembly have called for urgent action to address the increasing number of fatal road accidents urging government agencies to strengthen enforcement and implement safety measures to protect lives.

Leading the debate, Leader of the Majority Party Kimani Ichung'wah challenged government agencies to move beyond routine responses and implement concrete measures to stem the growing loss of lives on Kenyan roads.

Hon. Ichung'wah pointed to possible causes of accidents including poor road conditions and gaps in enforcement by regulatory bodies such as the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA).

However, he cautioned against relying on unverified information circulating on social media urging Kenyans to prioritise accuracy.

"I cannot confirm whether what is circulating online is true because such information must always be verified," he said, noting that misinformation often clouds public understanding of road safety issues.



Majority Leader Hon. Kimani Ichungw'ah speaking in the National Assembly Chamber

The Kikuyu MP proposed the installation of speed cameras on all bitumen-standard roads, arguing that technology-driven enforcement could significantly reduce reckless driving.

"Any tarmacked road should have a speed camera," he said, calling on the NTSA Director-General and senior officials in the transport and roads ministries to visit the accident scene before the end of the week.

He further urged Parliament to step up its oversight role by summoning key government officials, including the Cabinet Secretary for Roads, Transport and Public Works, to explain measures being taken to address what he described as a "national crisis."

He warned that the death toll from road crashes was now surpassing other major public health threats.

Adding a legal dimension to the debate, Rarieda MP Dr. Otiende Amollo cautioned against unilateral policy actions by regulatory agencies without parliamentary approval.

He emphasised that any new measures, including proposed spot fines, must comply with constitutional requirements.

"Under Articles 94 and 95 of the Constitution, no law can have the force of law unless it is passed by Parliament," Dr Amollo said.

"While such ideas may be well-intentioned, they must be subjected to scrutiny by the people's representatives to ensure they align with the law and the will of the people."

Saku MP Hon. Dido Raso painted a grim picture of a country growing desensitised to road fatalities, warning that frequent accidents were becoming normalised.

"In this country, people dying in road accidents appears to be the new normal. After burials, people quickly forget," he said. "But when 16 people die in one spot, that should concern the entire nation."

Hon. Raso called for immediate and practical interventions at accident-prone areas, including closing roads identified as black spots, diverting traffic, and expanding infrastructure where necessary. He criticised the tendency to delay action until after tragedies occur.

he described as a "national crisis."

MPs head into short break with packed agenda awaiting, upon return

The National Assembly has concluded a busy first part of the fifth Session marked by the passage of key Bills as Members proceed on a short recess.

Leader of Majority Party and Kikuyu MP, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah noted that the House had met critical statutory timelines commending legislators for their "dedication and cooperation," which enabled the efficient processing of priority business.

"We have maintained good pace and dispensed with matters that require consideration within the statutory timelines set during the First Session," he said.

Among the key milestones achieved is the approval of the Budget Policy Statement for the 2026/2027 financial year and the 2026 Medium-Term Debt Strategy, both crucial in shaping the country's fiscal direction.

The House also passed the Division of Revenue Bill, 2026, outlining the allocation of funds between the national and county governments and the National Infrastructure Fund Bill, which establishes a financing framework for the rollout of flagship projects under the government's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda.

However, Hon. Ichung'wah noted that several critical matters remain under committee consideration, urging parliamentary committees to utilise the recess period to fast-track pending business.

Top among these are the Supplementary Estimates for the 2025/2026 financial year, as well as Petitions concerning the proposed de-gazettement of approximately 6,708 hectares of public land across South Nandi, Turbo, Mt. Elgon, and Kakamega forests.

Other pending legislative proposals include the Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill, 2026, the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2026, Senate amendments to the Co-operatives Bill and the Technopolis Bill.

The Food and Food Safety Coordination Bill, 2023, and the National Disaster Risk Management Bill, 2023 are also currently under Mediation.

Upon resumption, MPs are expected to tackle a wide range of business, including consideration of a government proposal on the partial divestiture of its stake in Safaricom PLC, debate on the National Aviation Policy and an inquiry into the pricing of tea in Kenya.

The House will also host Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Hon. Musalia Mudavadi on April 1, 2026 to brief MPs on hardship allowances in the public service and the recruitment of Kenyans into foreign armies, particularly in the Russia–Ukraine war.



PACKED AGENDA

- **Parliament recess:** National Assembly begins a short recess after a busy first part of the fifth Session.
- **Key Bills passed:** Budget Policy Statement (2026/2027), Medium-Term Debt Strategy (2026), Division of Revenue Bill (2026), and National Infrastructure Fund Bill.
- **Pending matters:** Supplementary Estimates (2025/2026), petitions on forest land degazettement, Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill, SEZ Amendment Bill, Co-operatives Bill (Senate amendments), Technopolis Bill, and two Bills under mediation (Food and Food Safety Coordination Bill, National Disaster Risk Management Bill).
- **Post-recess agenda:** Debate on Safaricom PLC divestiture, National Aviation Policy, tea pricing inquiry.
- **Upcoming briefing:** PMCS Musalia Mudavadi to address MPs on April 1, 2026, regarding hardship allowances and recruitment of Kenyans into foreign armies (Russia–Ukraine war context).

MPs push KENGEN to shift Kipevu III to LNG

The National Assembly Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy has challenged Kenya Electricity Generating Company to fast-track the transition to cleaner energy by adopting Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) at the Kipevu III power plant.

This even as it sought clarification on land ownership issues flagged in an audit report.

The committee issued the directive during an inspection tour of the Kipevu III facility in Mombasa, part of its oversight mandate following concerns raised by the Office of the Auditor-General.

Led by Pokot South MP David Pkosing, the lawmakers urged KenGen to align its operations with the government's clean energy agenda by transitioning from Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) to LNG.

"Kipevu III must transition to cleaner fuel to remain viable beyond the current contract," said Pkosing.

The 120-megawatt plant, commissioned in 2011, currently runs predominantly on HFO, although it was designed to operate on both HFO and LNG. Its power purchase agreement is set to



Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy led by the Chairperson, Hon. David Pkosing interacts with the Engineer Joy Odwour during a tour to the KenGen power processing plant in Mombasa on Thursday 18th March 2026.

MPs warned that failure to sustain operations at the facility could expose the Coast region to a power deficit, particularly following the shutdown of Kipevu I and II plants after the lapse of their contracts.

KenGen officials, led by Engineer Julius Odumbe, told the committee that Kipevu III remains critical in stabilising electricity supply in the region, even as the country shifts towards a largely clean energy mix.

The committee also confirmed that KenGen has secured the plant's title deed, addressing ownership concerns raised in the Auditor-General's report for the 2021/2022 financial year.

Committee members raised additional concerns over sector inefficiencies. Turkana South MP John Ariko pointed to limited transmission infrastructure as a key contributor to power losses, while Soy MP David Kiplagat called for a balanced regulatory framework to support sector growth.

Wajir West MP Yusuf Farah questioned the persistently high cost of electricity despite Kenya achieving over 90 per cent clean energy generation.

In response, KenGen attributed the pricing to cost-reflective tariffs, noting that electricity is sold based on the actual cost of production.

The committee has now directed the utility to adopt global best practices in capacity payment mechanisms and accelerate reforms aimed at securing the long-term viability of the Kipevu III plant.

expire in 2031.

COMMITTEES' ROUND-UP

House Team urges Lamu port management to leverage on Infrastructure Fund for faster growth



Members of the Committee on Regional Integration pose for a photo with the management of Lamu Port during the inspection visit at the port

The National Assembly Committee on Regional Integration has urged the management of Lamu Port to leverage the National Infrastructure Fund (NIF) to finance critical operational infrastructure, boost cargo throughput and enhance Kenya's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The Committee chaired by Nominated MP, Hon. Irene Mayaka made during an inspection tour of the port, where the lawmakers engaged the management on operational challenges and the facility's role in advancing regional integration.

The legislators sought clarity on policy and regulatory bottlenecks that have limited the port's autonomy and slowed its emergence as a key regional logistics hub within the East African Community.

"We need to understand the specific policy issues. Allow me to bring you up to speed on how the EAC works. Any country within the region can initiate a policy issue that goes through treaty ratification. It is not necessary for all countries to agree; once a proposal secures 65 per cent endorsement, it can be considered," said Hon. Irene Mayaka, chairs the committee.

She further called on the port's management to work closely with the committee on budgetary concerns to unlock its growth potential.

"We need to understand the budgetary issues that Lamu Port is facing so that we may act as a go-between. The responses you give us will be useful in supporting the port's growth, as this Committee will be able to assist," she added.

In response, Lamu Port General Manager Captain Abdulaziz Mzee cited resource constraints as a major impediment to efficient operations, noting that both workforce and equipment are currently outsourced.

"The workforce here and the equipment are outsourced," he told the committee, underscoring the need for investment in in-house capacity.

Captain Mzee identified incomplete road infrastructure linking the port to Ethiopia and South Sudan, unresolved land ownership issues, policy limitations, and the lack of operational autonomy as key challenges holding back the port's full potential.

He warned that poor connectivity was already costing the port business to regional competitors.

"We are losing business to our competitors because of our road network. We have bitumen-standard roads which cannot support heavy trucks, while our competitors have concrete roads that carry more tonnage," he observed.

IPOA lobby's National Assembly to increase funding for enhanced operations

The Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) has requested Kshs 14.93 million for ICT infrastructure modernization to enhance its operational efficiency.

While making his presentation, the Authority's CEO, Mr. Elema Halake, noted that IPOA has expanded its services to three new offices in Mandera, Marsabit, and Turkana counties, necessitating additional funding for ICT equipment to support service delivery.

He further stated that the Authority requires additional funding for the purchase of motor vehicles and other transportation equipment.

"To support operations in both existing and newly established regional offices in Mandera, Marsabit, and Turkana, the Authority is requesting an additional Kshs 165.4 million to facilitate the purchase of ten Land Cruiser vehicles, given the challenging terrain," said Mr. Halake.

The Acting Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Authority, Ms. Anne Mwangi, also requested an additional Kshs 332.1 million, noting that the funds will cater to critical expenditure areas necessary for the effective discharge of IPOA's mandate.



Committee chairperson Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (centre) his vice Hon (Rtd) Col. Dido Rasso (left) during a meeting with IPOA.

A document tabled by the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Internal Security and National Administration, Dr. Raymond Omollo, revealed that the allocation for domestic travel and subsistence had increased from Kshs 653.8 million to Kshs 1,353.8 million.

The Committee, chaired by Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo, sought clarification on the specific security operations that justify the Kshs 700 million increase in domestic travel expenditure.

In his response, Dr. Omollo noted that the State Department undertakes extensive travel, particularly in the coordination of national celebrations.

The Committee is scheduled to appear before the Budget and Appropriations Committee to defend the MDAs budget

Housing projects at risk as budget cut triggers funding shortfall

The Principal Secretary for the State Department for Housing Charles Hinga has warned that ongoing housing projects could stall if additional funding is not released in time.

Appearing before the National Assembly Committee on Housing and Public Works, the PS revealed that the proposed FY 2025/2026 Supplementary Budget I slashes donor funding for the programme by Ksh 800 million reducing the allocation from Ksh 13.34 billion to Ksh 12.5 billion.

He cautioned that the reduction would significantly disrupt programme implementation.

In his presentation, PS Hinga disclosed that the government is currently undertaking about 1,700 housing projects nationwide but faces a critical staffing gap with some officers working up to three shifts due to understaffing.

However, the committee session chaired by Buuri MP Hon. Mugambi Rindikiri, who is the deputy chair questioned whether the funding shortfall had been anticipated or pointed to poor planning, and sought clarification on delays in staff recruitment.

In response, the PS said the department had foreseen the funding constraints, noting that 80 per cent of the allocated budget had already been utilized.

He further disclosed that although the Department had invested some funds in Treasury Bills, the National Treasury of Kenya had declined requests to access the funds.

On staffing, Hinga said a request for additional personnel had been submitted but was not approved.

The Committee indicated it would engage the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning for further clarification as it prepares to appear before the Budget and Appropriations Committee to defend the Department's budget.



Buuri MP Hon. Mugambi Rindikiri, vice-chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Housing and Public Works during a session with the State Department for Housing on the financial year 2025/2026 Supplementary Budget one at Continental House, Parliament Buildings.

MPs reject proposed cuts to Public Service internship programme



Members of the National Assembly Labour Committee engage officials from the Public Service Commission during a session on the Supplementary Estimates I for FY 2025/26.

The Public Service Commission has come under sharp criticism from members of the National Assembly Committee on Labour over what legislators termed as misplaced budgeting and questionable allocation of resources.

The Commission was appearing before the committee, chaired by Kilifi South MP Hon.Ken Chonga, to defend its proposals under the Supplementary Estimates I for the 2025/2026 financial year.

At the center of the standoff is a reduction of KShs 104.9 million from the Public Service Internship Programme, a move that lawmakers say will significantly affect opportunities for young graduates seeking entry into the job market.

The programme, which is designed to bridge the gap between education and employment, relies on government funding to provide stipends for interns placed across public institutions. Legislators warned that the budget cut would inevitably reduce the number of beneficiaries, shorten internship durations, or lower stipend allocations.

Committee members questioned the rationale behind scaling down funding for a programme that is already struggling to meet its annual target of 20,000 interns.

In its defence, the Commission said the reallocation was necessary to cater for administrative costs that had previously been left unfunded. These include domestic travel, hospitality services, furniture, vehicle maintenance, and staff training.

However, MPs dismissed the explanation, arguing that the move reflects poor prioritization.

"The priorities are not well aligned. You should have requested for a fresh budgetary allocation rather than reducing the programme's allocation," said Hon. Chonga.



Hon. Ken Chonga chairs a session of the Labour Committee with the Public Service Commission.

Vihiga MP Kivai Kagesi also questioned the decision, warning that the cuts risk undermining a key national initiative.

"This was a flagship project meant to bridge the gap between graduating students and the job market by giving them an opportunity in the public service. Don't you feel you are weakening the programme by reducing its budget?" he posed.

Lawmakers expressed concern that diverting funds from the internship programme to administrative expenses such as office rent and travel would have adverse effects on its implementation. They maintained that any reallocation should instead strengthen, rather than dilute, the programme.

The committee chair further noted that funding for the internship initiative has historically been insufficient to meet its objectives, and should ideally be increased rather than reduced.

The committee urged the Commission to reconsider its budgetary priorities moving forward to safeguard and expand opportunities for Kenyan graduates under the programme. The call comes amid rising concern over youth unemployment and diminishing job opportunities in both the public and private sectors.

Funding shortfall risk hunger safety net payments, Committee told



Regional Development Committee Chairperson Hon. Peter Lochakapong (centre) quizzes ASALs Principal Secretary Kello Harsama and his team during a session at Parliament Buildings

Thousands of vulnerable households in arid and semi-arid regions could miss critical cash transfers later this year due to a Sh1.6 billion funding shortfall, MPs have been told.

Appearing before the National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Regional Development, Principal Secretary for ASALs Kello Harsama warned that the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) risks disruption without urgent action from the National Treasury.

The program, a key government safety net for food-insecure households, requires Sh5.47 billion but has been allocated Sh3.92 billion, resulting in a Sh1.56 billion shortfall.

Without additional funding, we will not be able to meet payroll obligations for October, November, and December. Beneficiaries will not be paid," Mr. Harsama said.

The PS said the department had accessed Sh350 million under Article 223 of the Constitution for emergency drought interventions, including water trucking and borehole rehabilitation, but noted the funds were insufficient.

Financial pressure is compounded by pending bills amounting to Sh11.5 billion, with the Lake Basin Development Authority accounting for the bulk. The National Cereals and Produce Board is also owed Sh53 million for relief food supplied in the previous financial year.

Several projects have stalled due to lack of funding, including the Ewaso Ng'iro tannery and the Oloitoktok tomato processing plant in Kajiado County.

Mr. Harsama admitted the department is struggling to meet basic operational costs, saying only Sh65 million remains after funding agencies.

"We have no allocation for foreign travel and limited resources for field operations," he said, adding that logistical constraints are hampering oversight work.

He urged MPs to approve an additional Sh275 million for operations and prioritise funding for critical programmes.

Committee chairperson Hon. Peter Lochakapong (Sigor) said MPs would consider the department's concerns and table recommendations in the House.

> **"We have no allocation for foreign travel and limited resources for field operations," he said, adding that logistical constraints are hampering oversight work.**

Health Committee flags funding gaps, low contributions as key threats to SHA sustainability

Hon. James Nyikal (Seme) has raised an alarm over funding shortfalls and low premium contributions threatening the sustainability of the Social Health Authority (SHA) even as the government pushes ahead with reforms in the key sector.

Speaking at a Mombasa hotel, where he led a National Assembly Departmental Committee on Health engagement with Medical Services Principal Secretary Dr. Ouma Oluga, as well as officials from the Social Health Authority (SHA), Dr. Nyikal outlined a range of structural and operational challenges facing the new health insurance framework.

"The revenue that the Social Health Authority collects for the three funds is really not enough to meet its expenses. As things stand now, they are barely getting what they need to run," Dr. Nyikal, who chairs the committee, said.

He noted that the imbalance between revenue and expenditure is largely driven by low participation from the informal sector, which is expected to contribute the bulk of funding under the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF).

"Those in formal employment remit their contributions directly through employers, and that has remained the main source of income. But we expect a larger portion to come from the informal sector, and this is where the challenge lies," he said.

Nyikal revealed that while about 29 million Kenyans have registered under SHA, only around five million are actively paying premiums, a gap he warned could undermine the scheme.

"With that rate, we really have to increase informal sector contributions. Unless that is done, we are likely to face a serious sustainability issue," he added.

To address this, SHA is exploring partnerships with savings groups, SACCOs and microfinance institutions to enable informal workers to pay premiums gradually.

> **"The revenue that the Social Health Authority collects for the three funds is really not enough to meet its expenses. As things stand now, they are barely getting what they need to run," Dr. Nyikal,**



Seme MP Dr. James Nyikal, who chairs the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Health, speaking during a meeting with the Social Health Authority (SHA) in Mombasa

House team raises concerns over lack of inclusion of minorities and governance in universities and TVETS



Bumula MP Hon. Jack Wanami Wamboka, chairperson of the National Assembly Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education, with Vice-Chairperson Kasipul MP Hon. Boyd Were during a committee session reviewing audit reports for various universities and TVET institutions.

The National Assembly Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education has called on public institutions of higher learning to strengthen inclusivity, accountability and governance practices.

In separate sittings with Maseno University and Rift Valley Technical Training Institute, lawmakers raised concerns over representation, financial management, and compliance with statutory requirements.

During a session with Maseno University, chaired by Embakasi West MP Hon. Mark Mwenje, the committee questioned the institution's low representation of persons with disabilities, stressing that inclusivity must go beyond policy commitments to actual staffing.

"You have come here with a full team and there is not even one person with a disability. Tell me, how many do you have?" Hon. Mwenje posed.

The university acknowledged the gap, with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nyambedha noting that efforts are underway to enhance representation through inclusive hiring and collaboration with relevant agencies.

"We are constantly making efforts to ensure we meet the required standards for persons with disabilities," he said.

The committee also scrutinised the university's financial position, flagging significant outstanding receivables, including student fee arrears and funds owed by government agencies.

In a separate sitting with Rift Valley Technical Training Institute, chaired by Vice-Chairperson Boyd Were, MPs raised concerns over ethnic imbalance in staffing, noting that a majority of employees come from a single community.

"This is a national institution," said Samuel Karitho.

"Eighty-one per cent is too high. We need to see this come down to 50 per cent," Hon. Mwenje directed.

The institution admitted the imbalance, indicating that recent recruitment efforts have begun to diversify staff composition, with further changes expected. However, the committee issued a firm directive, demanding measurable progress within one year.

Lawmakers also faulted the institute's management for failing to submit mandatory procurement reports, dismissing claims that the lapse resulted from the death of a procurement officer.

"That is not an excuse. Institutions must ensure continuity," Hon. Were ruled.

Additionally, the committee raised concerns over the operation of bank accounts without approval from the National Treasury of Kenya. Management said steps are being taken to regularise the accounts through the relevant State Department.

Public Accounts Committee raises alarm over State Entities' delay in submitting documents for audit

A House Committee raises alarm over State Entities' delay in submitting documents for audit*

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC), chaired by Hon. Tindi Mwale (Butere), has directed heads of State Departments to submit documents required by the Office of the Auditor General on time.

Hon. Mwale said that many queries raised by the Auditor General on spending by State Departments and their agencies are due to delays in submitting documents for audit.

"If the required documents are submitted on time, then we will avoid unnecessary audit queries. It will save time for everyone," said the Committee chairperson. He spoke during a meeting with the Principal Secretary for Social Protection and Senior Citizen

Affairs, Joseph Motari. During the session, the Committee reviewed the report of the Office of the Auditor-General for the financial year ended 30 June 2024, focusing on the accounts of the State Department.

Committee members Hon. Otiende Amollo (Rarieda), Hon. Edwin Mugo (Mathioya), Hon. Yakub Adow (Bura), Hon. Marianne Kitany (Aldai) and Hon. Nabii Nabwera (Lugari) questioned why most queries relate to missing or unsupported documents. The lawmakers said timely submission of financial statements and supporting documents is required by law. They warned that delays can create false perceptions of missing funds.



Public Accounts Committee chairperson Hon. Tindi Mwale during the meeting with the State department for Social Protection and Senior Citizens Affairs.

The Auditor General's report flagged KShs.1.25 billion spent on domestic travel and subsistence, with KShs.98.628 million unsupported by payment and attendance schedules. "In some cases, inconsistencies of signatures in the attendance and payment schedules were noted," reads the report in part.

The report also noted that 159 transactions amounting to KShs.41.282 million were paid in cash without supporting documents explaining the nature of the payments.In response, Mr. Motari said measures have been put in place to ensure staff provide all required documentation, including approved memos, attendance registers, payment schedules, work tickets and receipts.

"The payment vouchers were since amended for review," he told the Committee. He acknowledged challenges in submitting documentation but assured the Committee that no funds were lost and that all documents have now been availed to the Auditor General.

Sports Committee to push for payment of Ksh.3.9 b AFCON hosting rights fee ahead of March 30th deadline



Sports Committee chairperson Hon. Dan Wanyama in a jovial mood during a meeting with PS State department of Sports.

Kenya's hosting rights for the upcoming AFCON games could be in jeopardy if it will not have paid the hosting rights fee amounting to Kshs.3.9 billion by 30th March, 2026.

This was revealed by Sports PS Elijah Mwangi when he appeared before the Dan Wanyama-led Sports and Culture Committee on the 2025/26 Supplementary Estimates I.

The PS during the meeting, requested the Committee to ask the National Treasury to move the allocation of Kshs.5 billion that is projected to go towards the games in the 2026/27 Budget Policy to the Supplementary.

"We have received communication from CAF giving the timelines on the activities that should be done in readiness to host AFCON. We appreciate the Treasury because in the 2026/27 BPS, there was an allocation of Kshs.5billion, 3.5 billion being for the hosting fees. But in the light of the recent communication from CAF, we have been given up to 30th of March to clear the payment," the PS said.

According to the PS, Tanzania and Uganda (co-hosts under the Pamoja bid) have already paid their fees, and Kenya risks losing the progress made unless it demonstrates commitment by settling its hosting contribution, as required by CAF.

At the same time, he disclosed that the infrastructure expected to host the games may also not be ready in six months' time due to pending bills owed to the contractors engaged during the 2024 CHAN games.

Hon. Wanyama while reacting to the PS request, assured the State Department that the Committee will push Treasury to release the hosting funds.

"We've heard you and we will push Treasury to release money for the hosting rights so that we do not get into the quagmire of being denied the hosting of AFCON. It will be a big shame to Kenya which has always been a big brother in the region," the Chairperson said.

> **"We have received communication from CAF giving the timelines on the activities that should be done in readiness to host AFCON**



New law to increase funding and accountability for rail infrastructure (Continued) from Page 1



President H.E Dr. William Ruto with senior officers from Parliament and the Executive after signing the Miscellaneous Fees and Levies (Amendment) Act 2025 into law at State House.

but also for rehabilitating aging infrastructure and supporting safety and economic regulation. However, rehabilitation projects will require joint approval from the Treasury and Transport departments, tightening fiscal oversight.

Up to 90 percent of the Fund may be leveraged to secure additional financing for large-scale railway projects. This provision positions the levy as a catalyst for attracting private and external investment, potentially speeding up the expansion of Kenya's rail network without immediate strain on the treasury.

Strict controls have also been implemented, including dual approval by the Finance and Transport Cabinet Secretaries for rehabilitation projects, and a cap of 0.5 percent on administrative costs, ensuring maximum value for infrastructure development.

Once implemented, the new system will restart stalled projects, restore neglected metre-gauge lines, and strengthen rail integration into Kenya's logistics chain, but its success will depend on strict oversight

and disciplined execution.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



There is urgent need to reform recruitment processes to guarantee fair, inclusive and meaningful opportunities for persons with disabilities. The outdated and discriminatory requirements continue to unjustly exclude capable individuals. There is no valid reason why a person living with a disability should be barred from serving in institutions such as the military in a professional capacity. The arbitrary standards must be reviewed to reflect equity, dignity and inclusion. Inclusion is not optional; it is a fundamental right that must be realized in both policy and practic"

-Hon. Gladys Boss (Uasin Gishu County)



"If we want a permanent solution to raw sewage being discharged in public places, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) must be empowered to enforce compliance. However, industries must take primary responsibility for managing their waste. It is the duty of every factory to manage and dispose of its waste. No industry should be established without adequate waste disposal systems in place. We must not allow industries to operate irresponsibly and then rely on NEMA to clean up the pollution they create"

-Hon. Vincent Musyoka (Mwala)



At some point, even as an investor, you may need to restructure your investment portfolio. You cannot say we are not going to sell Safaricom simply because it is a national asset. What if it is sold and we invest in other commercially viable projects that earn more returns? Some argue that another government asset should be sold instead. However, if you need money and have two cows, one fat and one thin, you sell the fat one to raise sufficient funds"

-Hon. David Mwalika (Kitui Rural)



Everyone has a right to emergency medical care regardless of their financial status. Any delayed medical attention can lead to severe conditions or even death. I have seen women die during childbirth due to delays, while some children survive with complications. This raises concerns about adherence to medical ethics. Health care providers must offer emergency treatment to all patients. The requirement to pay a deposit should never prevent any Kenyan from receiving urgent medical care.."

-Hon. Mary Emaase (Teso South)



TikTok should not be banned but regulated. The regulation is to safeguard Kenyans from the negative effects of the platform and to protect our children from accessing harmful content. It's a good platform that can generate income through monetization, thereby empowering our youth. We should regulate it to enable age verification and content filtering. Through the data protection office, the Ministry of ICT must compel *TikTok* administrators to localize their offices in Kenya so that we can report any issues that pertain to it."

- Hon. Janet Sitienei (Turbo)



We should also focus on ensuring that the common *mwananchi* feels represented in the Budget, going forward. The President has been very keen, and the government has been very supportive, on subsidising food production so that Kenyans can produce enough. We cannot create as many industries, roads and programmes as possible yet the common *mwananchi* is hungry. It is high time we focused on empowering the common *mwananchi* to produce enough food, especially around this time when most parts of the country are experienced rainfall shortage"

-Hon. Robert Gichimu (Gichugu)



Our goal should be to improve the lives of Kenyans as we plan and develop our budget policies. Yet we have budgeted KShs1.2 trillion beyond projected revenues, increasing national debt. Today we are consuming what our children and future generations should use, leaving them to repay these debts. We have securitised revenue streams like the Fuel Levy, borrowing against future income. Why can we not live within our means and prepare a budget that respects the share of future generations?"

-Hon. Julius Mawathe (Embakasi South)



For us to have a country where everyone has a fair chance, then we must commit more resources to programmes that support our senior citizens, open up opportunities for our youth, and ensure persons with disabilities are fully included in our development agenda. We must invest in social protection and create jobs. We must remove barriers that limit access to services. Inclusive policies will promote equality and dignity. This will help build a just society where no one is left behind."

-Hon. Alice Nganga (Thika Town)



We are sitting on gold, billions of money in the name of shares in companies. Yet our young people cannot have a full meal because we are not able to open up economy. The honorable thing we can do is to open up the economy, release this money into circulation, release this money to people's businesses, and into bank accounts so that we can afford loans. You can only sell a cow that has value. That is why we must liquidate Safaricom, our best company, to support recovery."



The County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) are not working. Our county governments have given the national government a raw deal, and this should concern the state, as the industrial parks are a flagship initiative of this administration. Hardly 20% of counties have done what is required for the industrial parks to function. The Trade Committee must find a better way to address this issue. County governments must be held accountable and cannot escape scrutiny of this important function."

-Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba (Githunguri)

-Hon. Jack Wamboka (Bumula)

CLIQUE & CLICKS



The Public Investment Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy Chairperson, Hon. David Pkosing in consultation with Hon. Paul Katana, during a meeting with the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA), to discuss audit queries raised in the Auditor General's Report for the fiscal years 2021-2022 to 2024-2025 on Thursday, 19th March, 2026.



Education Committee Chair and Tinderet MP, Hon. Julius Melly shares a light moment with the Principal Secretary for Basic Education, Prof. Julius Bitok during a meeting to consider the Supplementary Estimates 1 for 2025/26 Financial year.-



Trade, Industry and Cooperatives Committee Vice Chairperson Hon. Marianne Kitany consults with Hon. John Bwire during an engagement with the CS for Investments, Trade and Industry, Hon. Lee Kinyanjui



Public Accounts Committee Chairperson Hon. Tindi Mwale with Hon. Victor Koech after the House team held a meeting with officials from the Sports State Department on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at Bunge Towers



Hon. Amos Mwago and Hon. Joyce Kamene conferring during a Trade, Industry and Cooperatives Committee meeting with Stakeholders over the Local Content Bill, 2025. The key legislative proposal seeks to promote the use of locally manufactured goods and services. It sponsored by Hon. Jane Kagiri (Laikipia County).



BUNGE MASHINANI

CHEPALUNGU CONSTITUENCY

Hon Koech donates Ksh.1 million for Cheborian secondary school laboratory



Chepalungu MP, Hon. Victor Kipngetich Koech Mandazi handing over a Sh1 million cheque for the completion of a laboratory at Cheborian Day Secondary School

Chepalungu MP Hon. Victor Koech Mandazi has donated Ksh.1 million towards the completion of a laboratory at Cheborian Day secondary school, a move aimed at strengthening science education in the institution.

The legislator presented the cheque during a visit to the school recently, where he met parents, teachers and students to discuss the progress and development needs of the institution.

Mr Mandazi said the funds will support the completion of a stalled laboratory project, which he noted is key to improving the learning environment and equipping students with practical skills in science and innovation.

"This investment is not only a commitment to infrastructure development but also a pledge to empower learners with the tools and environment they need to excel in science and innovation," he said.

The MP commended the school's leadership, parents and learners for their dedication and cooperation in advancing education in the area

MACHAKOS COUNTY,

Hon Kamene donates water tanks to 200 families in Yatta, Machakos County



Machakos County Woman Representative Hon. Joyce Kamene officiates the launch of a community water tanks initiative in Matuu in Yatta Sub-County, Machakos County

Residents of Matuu in Yatta Sub-County, Machakos county, are set to benefit from improved access to clean water following the launch of a community water tanks initiative aimed at addressing the scarcity of the commodity in the area.

Machakos County MP Hon. Joyce Kamene Kasimbi said the project marks a major step towards ensuring sustainable water access for residents who have long struggled with unreliable water sources.

Speaking during the official launch of the water tanks programme in Matuu, Hon. Kamene said the initiative has already benefited more than 200 families in Machakos county by providing them with reliable water storage facilities.

"The official launch of the water tanks this year in Matuu marks a significant milestone in the community's journey towards sustainable water access," she said.

The legislator noted that the programme has significantly improved the quality of life for many households

UASIN GISHU COUNTY

Hon. Boss disburses NGAAF funds to empower women, youth and students Uasin Gishu



National Assembly Deputy Speaker and Uasin Gishu County MP, Hon. Gladys Boss disbursing National Government Affirmative Action Fund cheques to support students, women, youth and persons with disabilities across the county.

Uasin Gishu County MP Hon. Gladys Boss has overseen the disbursement of millions of shillings from the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) to support students, women, youth and persons with disabilities in the county.

Speaking during the cheque handover ceremony at Langas Primary School in Kapseret constituency, Hon. Boss said the funds are aimed at supporting education sector and strengthening community empowerment.

A total of Ksh.7.14 million in bursaries were allocated to support students across the county's six sub-counties, with Ainabkoi, Moiben, Kesses, Turbo, Soy and Kapseret each receiving Ksh.1.19 million.

In addition, women, youth and persons with disabilities groups received a combined Ksh.11.68 million to support economic empowerment initiatives.

Turbo sub-county received the largest allocation of Ksh.2.87 million, followed by Soy (Ksh.2.11 million), Moiben (Ksh.1.81 million), Kapseret (Ksh.1.66 million), Kesses (Ksh.1.61 million) and Ainabkoi (Ksh.1.61 million).

Hon. Boss said "NGAAF programme plays a critical role in supporting vulnerable groups and strengthening grassroots development.

POKOT SOUTH CONSTITUENCY

Hon. Pkosing donates cow to boost feeding programme at Kipsakas Primary



Officers representing Hon. David Pkosing (Pokot South) deliver a cow to Kipsakas Primary School in Siyoi Ward, Kapenguria Constituency, as part of an initiative to boost the school feeding programme and support learners' nutrition.

Pokot South MP Hon. David Pkosing has donated a cow to Kipsakas primary school in Siyoi ward to support the institution's feeding programme.

The animal was presented to the school by MCA Hon. Grace Loupa, who represented the MP.

Hon. Pkosing said the donation fulfils a pledge he had made to the school in respect to supporting feeding programmes initiated by schools in the area.

The MP noted: "the initiative is part of efforts to improve school feeding programmes and enhance pupils' retention in school".

Hon. Pkosing lauded his team for their continued support in implementing community-based initiatives, saying collective leadership remains key to addressing local challenges.

speaking during the official households

BUNGE Weekly

Issue No. 131

Every Monday

E-COPY

Kshs.2.8bn pending bills stall Kisumu convention centre, MPs told



Regional Development Committee Chairperson Hon. Peter Lochakapong (Sigor) engages Principal Secretary M.L. Lenasalon during a grilling session over pending bills and stalled projects at Parliament

The State Department for Devolution is struggling under mounting financial pressure, with Kshs.2.84 billion in pending bills threatening key projects, including the stalled Kshs.1.5 billion Kisumu Convention Centre.

Appearing before the National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Regional Development, Principal Secretary Michael Lenasalon warned that delayed payments have disrupted development programmes and exposed the government to rising costs. The Kisumu Convention Centre, once seen as a driver of regional growth, is now 55 per cent complete and has not received funding since the 2023/24 financial year.

"The project stalled due to non-payment of certified works amounting to Kshs.214.8 million. Contractors have since downed their tools," said Mr Lenasalon.

He added that the delay has attracted penalties of about Kshs.195 million, pushing up the overall project cost. An additional Kshs.1.577 billion is now required to complete the facility.

Mr. Lenasalon cautioned that prolonged delays could see the project deteriorate, warning it risks turning into a white elephant if funding is not secured.

The committee heard that most of the Kshs.2.84 billion pending bills are historical arrears under review, limiting the department's ability to fund new and ongoing projects.

"We are engaging relevant authorities to verify and settle these claims so that contractors are not pushed further into distress," he said.

In another setback, funding under the World Bank-supported Kenya Devolution Support Programme (KDSP II) has been reduced by Kshs.1.74 billion, a move expected to delay county capacity-building initiatives.

Despite the challenges, the department received Kshs.60 million under Article 223 to support the Siaya International Trade and Investment Forum, and a modest allocation for staff remuneration.

This week in history

On March 18, 2008, the National Assembly held a six-hour session from 2:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., averting national collapse amid post-election violence that claimed over 1,300 lives and displaced 600,000 people following the disputed December 2007 presidential poll.

A fragile peace accord brokered by Kofi Annan on February 28 required parliamentary action to become law, drawing President Mwai Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga to lead 200 MPs in a chamber once rife with accusations of electoral fraud and betrayal.

In a display of unity, the House unanimously passed the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2008, and the National Accord and Reconciliation Bill, 2008, by a 200-0 vote. The constitutional amendment, fast-tracked from to six days, enabled the creation of the Prime Minister and two Deputy Prime Ministers, forming the Grand Coalition Government with shared executive powers.

Hon. Raila Odinga became Kenya's second Prime Minister since 1963, with Uhuru Kenyatta and Musalia Mudavadi as Deputies; the 42-member Cabinet was sworn in on April 13, 2008. The coalition Government (2008-2013) drove reforms, including the 2010 Constitution that introduced devolution, a robust Bill of Rights, and independent institutions, cementing March 18 as a testament to Parliament's role in national stabilization.



President Mwai Kibaki (seated left) and opposition leader Raila Odinga (seated right) signing the power-sharing agreement that ended the 2007-2008 post-election violence. Standing Center, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, (standing far left) H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, (behind Hon. Raila): James Orengo (prominent politician and legal advisor)

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This Week in History segment compiled by the Parliamentary Research Service

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