BUNGE Weekly

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

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Monday, June 29th, 2026 to Monday, July 6th, 2026

The President assents to The Appropriations Act, 2026, unlocking Kshs.4.82 trillion budget for economic growth



New Law opens doors for deaf learners as MPs approve Kenyan Sign Language Bill



FILE PHOTO: Hon. Millie Odhiambo Mabona (standing) speaks in the National Assembly chamber

The National Assembly has passed the Kenyan Sign Language Bill, 2023 (Senate Bill No. 9 of 2023) with amendments, paving way for enhanced recognition, regulation and use of Kenyan Sign Language across public institutions, schools, courts, media houses and telecommunications services.

The Bill, co-sponsored by Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona and Hon. Umulkheir Harun, seeks to promote inclusivity and guarantee equal access to information, education and public services for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind.

The legislation gives effect to constitutional provisions that recognize Kenyan Sign Language as an official means of communication and affirm the rights of persons with

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PLENARY

House backs Bill strengthening Central Bank's financial stability framework

The National Assembly has passed the Central Bank of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (National Assembly Bill No. 27 of 2026), with amendments, strengthening the country's financial stability framework, enhancing accountability at the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) and providing stronger safeguards for the use of public funds in responding to financial crises.

The Bill proposed by the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning, seeks to modernize Kenya's banking laws in line with global best practices while reinforcing the resilience of the country's financial system.

Among the key amendments approved by the House is the refinement of the Central Bank's financial stability mandate. Legislators amended Clause 2 to clarify that CBK role is to foster the stability, resilience, liquidity, solvency, integrity and proper functioning of a market-based financial system. The amendment removes potential overlaps with other regulators while strengthening CBK's oversight of systemic financial risks.

The House also approved a new provision expanding the range of assets that the Central Bank may hold as reserves by including "other precious metals" alongside gold. The amendment provides a legal framework for diversification of the country's reserves and supports ongoing efforts to strengthen Kenya's financial buffers against global economic shocks.

In a major reform of the lender-of-last-resort function, Members approved amendments establishing a clearer framework for Emergency Liquidity Assistance (ELA) to banks and microfinance institutions facing temporary liquidity challenges. The House introduced a limit of five years on any emergency support arrangements, ensuring stronger safeguards and accountability in the use of public resources.



File photo: Ariel view of a sitting of the National Assembly

The legislation also protects continuity in the financial sector by providing that loans and advances granted before the commencement of the new law will remain valid under the revised framework.

Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning, Hon. Kuria Kimani, said the amendments strike a balance between maintaining the independence of the Central Bank and enhancing accountability and transparency in its operations.

MPs raise alarm over rising cases of missing and murdered children

Members of the National Assembly have expressed concern over the increasing number of cases involving missing, abducted and murdered children, calling for urgent intervention by security agencies and stronger child protection measures.

The concerns arose after Tharaka MP Hon. George Murugara sought a statement from the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security on the disappearance and death of three-year-old Shirley Katumi Mugendi, who went missing on 27 April 2026 and was found dead five days later in Iriani Village, Bukothima Ward, Tharaka Constituency.

"The circumstances under which the child went missing and the events leading to the discovery of her body have caused anguish to her family and require urgent investigation by the relevant security agencies," said Hon. Murugara.

The legislator requested a report on the circumstances surrounding the child's disappearance and death, the actions taken by security agencies, the status of investigations, measures to ensure justice for the family, and efforts to strengthen child protection mechanisms.

Vice Chairperson of the Administration and Internal Security Committee Hon. Dido Raso warned that children were increasingly becoming targets of criminal activities.

"I think the issue of pedophilia and people preying on children is rising in Kenya. It is a matter that we must take with very serious concern," he said, adding that harsher penalties were needed to deter offenders.



Tharaka MP Hon. George Murugara speaks in the National Assembly after raising concerns over the rising cases of child disappearances and murders

Presiding over the sitting, Session Speaker Hon. Martha Wangari observed that cases of missing children, defilement and murder of minors were becoming increasingly alarming.

"I do agree that the issue of missing children, defilement and murder of children is rising, and it is a matter that we must, as a House, give attention to," she said, urging the committee to provide a broader response on measures being taken to address the trend.

Committee Chairperson Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo acknowledged the growing concern and assured Members that the Committee would engage security agencies and the relevant ministry to address the issue comprehensively.

"We know and we are also getting concerned that there is a high increase of such cases," he said.

Kilifi North MP Hon. Owen Baya described the situation as a national crisis, emphasizing the need to prioritize the safety of children.

"When the lives of children are at stake, the future of the nation is also at stake," he said, urging security agencies to strengthen grassroots security structures, including Nyumba Kumi, village elders, chiefs and assistant chiefs.

Suba North MP Hon. Millie Odhiambo on her part called for an assessment of whether adequate resources and personnel were available to support child protection efforts and respond to cases involving missing children.

The Speaker subsequently directed the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security to provide a comprehensive response to the House on the concerns raised.

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disabilities to access services through appropriate communication formats.

The Bill establishes the Kenya Sign Language Council, a new statutory body mandated to regulate, develop and preserve Kenyan Sign Language in the country. The Council will be responsible for setting standards for training and practice, registering and licensing sign language interpreters, protecting the communication rights of deaf and deafblind persons, and advising the Government on matters relating to sign language.

The Council will be headquartered in Nairobi but will be required to decentralize its services across the country. Its membership will include representatives from government, the deaf community, sign language interpreters and the National Council for Persons with Disabilities.

The Bill also introduces far-reaching reforms in the education sector. The Cabinet Secretary responsible for Basic Education will be required to facilitate sign language lessons for parents, guardians and family Members of deaf, hard-of-hearing and deafblind children. Kenyan Sign Language will also be integrated into early childhood and basic education curricula, while public institutions of higher learning will be required to provide free interpretation services for learners who need them.

In a major boost for accessibility, television stations will be required to provide closed captioning and a Kenyan Sign Language inset occupying at least one-third of the screen during news broadcasts, educational programmes and national events. Internet-based video content will also be required to include captions or transcripts.



FILE PHOTO Hon. Umulkheir Harun during a meeting

Hon. Donya raises alarm as qualified students miss out on admission to medical courses as demand outstrips university capacity



Kisii County MP, Hon. Dorice Donya speaking at a past Women's Forum

Concern has been raised in the National Assembly over the limited number of university slots available for students seeking to pursue Medicine and Surgery, with lawmakers calling for urgent government intervention to expand training capacity in the country's medical schools.

Kisii County Woman Representative Hon. Dorice Donya sought a statement from the Departmental Committee on Education regarding the placement of students into Medicine and Surgery programmes, following reports that thousands of qualified candidates were unable to secure admission despite attaining grades required for the courses.

Raising the matter on the floor of the House, Hon. Donya noted that data from the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) shows that accredited public and private universities offering Medicine and Surgery have fewer than 1,000 available slots, compared to more than 5,000 applicants who qualified for admission during the 2025 placement cycle.

"The limited number of slots has caused anxiety and frustration amongst students who attained outstanding grades in the 2025 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education examinations with the intention of pursuing Medicine or Surgery, only to miss out on placement in their desired courses," she said.

The legislator observed that the growing number of qualified applicants unable to secure admission points to a widening gap between demand for medical training and the capacity of universities to accommodate students.

"The significant number of qualified students who missed placement in medical related degree programmes indicates that demand for training in the two fields has outpaced the capacity of accredited universities," she told the House.

Hon. Donya further argued that the situation raises questions about the adequacy of the country's medical training infrastructure and its preparedness to meet future healthcare workforce needs.

She called for a comprehensive report on the number of students who qualified for Medicine and Surgery programmes compared to those who secured placement, as well as clarification on the criteria used where applications exceeded available vacancies.

The MP also sought details on measures being undertaken by the Government to expand training opportunities in Medicine, Surgery and other highly competitive professional courses.

In addition, she requested information on long term plans to increase investment in medical education institutions to address the shortage of healthcare professionals and ensure that qualified students are not denied opportunities to pursue their preferred careers.

The matter now awaits a response from the Departmental Committee on Education.

Hon. Masara calls for urgent action over the delayed rehabilitation of Migori River Bridge

Suna West MP Hon. Peter Masara has called on the government to explain the delay in rehabilitating the Migori River Bridge, citing the continued hardship and safety risks faced by residents, traders and motorists who rely on the vital crossing.

Rising in the National Assembly under Standing Order 44(2)(c), Hon. Masara requested a statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure regarding the stalled rehabilitation works on the bridge, which connects Suna West and Suna East constituencies.

The legislator informed the House that the bridge was temporarily closed by the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) on 7 March 2026, following the identification of structural weaknesses in one section of the bridge by engineers.

According to Hon. Masara, the closure came at a time when River Migori had experienced rising water levels due to heavy rainfall, making immediate repairs impossible. He noted that KeNHA had indicated that rehabilitation works would commence once the water levels subsided, but several months later, no construction activities had begun.

"The bridge connects Suna West and Suna East constituencies, making it a critical link for the movement of people, goods and services between the two constituencies," he said.

He observed that the prolonged delay has continued to inconvenience thousands of residents, disrupt local businesses and transport, and expose Members of the public to danger as some have resorted to unsafe alternative crossing points.

"The delay in rehabilitating the bridge continues to inconvenience residents, motorists and traders. It also poses a safety risk to Members of the public who have resorted to dangerous options to cross from one end to the other," he added.

In his request, the legislator sought an explanation from the government on why rehabilitation works have not commenced despite improved conditions at the site.

He asked the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure to provide the reasons behind the delay by KeNHA in commencing the rehabilitation works after the lowering of water levels.

He further requested the Committee to outline the timelines within which the government intends to commence and complete the rehabilitation of the bridge.

Additionally, the legislator sought details of the measures that have been put in place to safeguard motorists, pedestrians and other road users while awaiting completion of the rehabilitation works.



Hon. Peter Masara (Suna West), during a committee meeting at Parliament Buildings

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President William Ruto has signed into law the Appropriations Act, 2026, paving the way for the implementation of the National Government's Kshs.4.82 trillion budget for the 2026/27 Financial Year and unlocking funding for key development programmes across the country.

The enactment of the law marks the final stage of the budget-making process after the National Assembly passed the Appropriations Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 36 of 2026) with amendments on June 18, 2026. Sponsored by the Chairperson of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, Hon. Samuel Atandi, CBS, MP, the legislation authorizes the withdrawal of money from the Consolidated Fund to finance government operations and development priorities.

The Kshs.4,819.9 billion budget reflects the Government's commitment to implementing the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), accelerating economic recovery and promoting inclusive growth. Of the total expenditure, Kshs.2.9 trillion has been allocated to the National Government, including Kshs.2.817 trillion for the Executive, Kshs.50.8 billion for Parliament and Kshs.30.4 billion for the Judiciary.

To strengthen devolution, the Act provides Kshs.503.5 billion in transfers to county governments, comprising Kshs.428 billion as equitable share and Kshs.75.5 billion as conditional allocations to enhance service delivery at the grassroots.

The legislation also allocates Kshs.379.5 billion for flagship development projects under the five BETA pillars, including finance and production, infrastructure, the social sector, land and natural resources, and governance and public administration.

Education received the largest share of the supports teachers' salaries, university and TVET financing, free primary and secondary education, junior secondary capitation, school examinations, scholarships and the conversion of 20,000 intern teachers to permanent and pensionable terms.

The health sector will receive Kshs.175.5 billion to strengthen Universal Health Coverage through financing for primary healthcare, the Kenya Medical Supplies Authority, Kenyatta National Hospital, disease control programmes and employment of UHC health workers.

Infrastructure development remains a major priority, with Kshs.230.3 billion allocated to roads and Kshs.51.8 billion for transport projects, including railway modernization, Bus Rapid Transit systems, airport upgrades and the Standard Gauge Railway.

The Act also provides significant fund- environmental conservation, digital transformation, national security, youth empowerment and social protection programmes. Key allocations include fertilizer subsidies, affordable housing, cash transfers for vulnerable groups, youth employment initiatives, MSME financing and preparations for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations.

The Supplementary Appropriation (No. 2) Act, 2026 was also signed into law, authorising an additional Ksh 18.2 billion in spending for the closing months of the 2025/26 Financial Year.

Among the beneficiaries are the NYOTA youth empowerment programme, which received Ksh5.79 billion through allocations to the State Departments for MSME Development and Youth Affairs, Ksh 2.3 billion for the Mwache Dam project, Ksh 1.5 billion for national examinations, and Ksh 4.1 billion for completion of AFCON 2027



H.E. President Dr. William Ruto assents to the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 2) Act, 2026 at State House, Nairobi on Tuesday last week. Present during the brief ceremony was the leadership of the National Assembly led by the Speaker, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula.

budget at Kshs.781.3 billion. The allocation ing for affordable housing, agriculture, water, sports infrastructure.

Act strengthening food safety oversight and consumer protection assented into law

President Dr. William Ruto has assented to the Food and Feed Safety Control Co-ordination Act, 2026.

The legislation, sponsored by the Leader of the Majority, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, seeks to strengthen oversight, improve coordination among regulatory agencies, and enhance consumer protection by ensuring the safety of food and feed products throughout the value chain.

The assent marks the conclusion of a lengthy legislative process that began in 2023 and culminated in mediation between the National Assembly and the Senate.

The Bill originating in the National Assembly was considered and passed with amendments on August 23, 2023, before proceeding to the Senate for consideration.

In March 2024, the Senate approved the Bill with additional amendments and returned it to the National Assembly for concurrence. However, the National Assembly rejected the proposed changes, triggering mediation under Article 112 of the Constitution.

The mediated version was subsequently approved by the National Assembly on April 7, 2026, and by the Senate on June 10, 2026, before being forwarded to the President for assent.

The new law establishes the Office of the Food and Feed Safety Controller, which will coordinate food and feed safety regulation across national and county governments. The Office is expected to streamline oversight, enhance accountability, and address overlaps among institutions involved in food and feed safety enforcement.

The Act also outlines the role of county governments in safeguarding food and feed safety and seeks to ensure that food is safely produced, processed, distributed, marketed and prepared for human consumption at every stage of the value chain.

Under the law, the Food and Feed Safety Controller will be responsible for developing and monitoring a national multiannual control plan, auditing official control systems, advising on risk analysis and management, overseeing traceability mechanisms, and coordinating responses when regulatory mandates overlap.

The office will also establish an information management system, prepare annual national food and feed safety reports, and designate reference laboratories for confirmatory testing.

To strengthen enforcement, the Act authorizes compliance officers to inspect premises, review records, and collect samples to ensure compliance with food and feed safety standards.

The legislation also amends several existing laws governing public health, agriculture, fisheries, standards, biosafety, and water services to align them with the new national coordination framework.



The Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, Hon. (Dr.) John Mutunga. The Committee championed the creation of an independent Office of the Food Safety Controller to strengthen oversight and coordination of food safety regulation

COMMITTEES' ROUND-UP

Public Petitions Committee receives petition on succession law reforms



The petitioners from Taita Taveta County led by former Governor John Mruttu (center) during the meeting last week.



Chairperson Hon. Muchangi Karemba shares his view on the petition by the former Taita Taveta Governor during the meeting on Tuesday last week.

The Public Petitions Committee has received a petition seeking reforms to the Law of Succession Act (Cap. 160) to simplify inheritance procedures and enhance access to probate services across the country.

Appearing before the Committee chaired by Hon. Muchangi Karemba (Runyenjes), former Taita Taveta Governor Eng. John Mruttu called for measures to provide simplified succession procedures for small estates, administrative settlement of uncontested estates and expanded and decentralised probate services.

Eng. Mruttu told the Committee that millions of Kenyans continue to occupy, cultivate and invest in land that is still legally registered in the names of deceased persons, limiting the ability of families to realise the full economic value of such assets due to delays in transferring ownership through succession.

He noted that lengthy and costly succession processes have made it difficult for many beneficiaries to fully enjoy inherited assets.

"As a result, productive assets remain physically present but economically constrained. The living work the land, but in the records of the State, the dead still own it," said Eng. Mruttu.

According to the former governor, the proposed reforms are intended to promote justice, dignity and economic empowerment for Kenyan families.

"This petition therefore is not merely about inheritance. At its heart, it is about justice, dignity and opportunity, and about ensuring that every Kenyan family can pass assets from one generation to the next in a manner that promotes stability, prosperity and inclusion," he said.

Among the proposals contained in the petition is the establishment of a National Multi-Sectoral Task Force on Succession and Inheritance Reform to undertake a comprehensive review of the Law of Succession Act and related legislation.

Committee Chairperson Hon. Muchangi Karemba observed that succession matters affect virtually every Kenyan and reaffirmed the Committee's commitment to engaging stakeholders in order to strengthen access to justice.

"Land succession is a matter that affects most, if not all Kenyans, and this Committee is keen on interrogating this matter further by involving all relevant stakeholders to ensure that land succession processes are simplified and access to justice is strengthened," said Hon. Karemba.

Members of the Committee, Hon. Janet Sitienei and Hon. Beatrice Elachi, supported the proposal to establish a multi-sectoral task force, saying it would help streamline succession procedures and enhance access to assets left behind by deceased persons.

Hon. Elachi further proposed that the Unclaimed Financial Assets Authority be included in the task force to address the challenges faced by many Kenyans, particularly vulnerable groups, in claiming assets belonging to deceased relatives.

"You see many Kenyans have never followed through on these unclaimed assets, so I agree with the Engineer that there is need for the President to establish this multi-sectoral task force. Let them go round the country and come up with recommendations on how we move with this succession law, especially for the most vulnerable," said Hon. Elachi.

Health Committee, MESHA partner to enhance public understanding of SHA

Members of the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Health have called for stronger public communication about the Social Health Authority (SHA), citing widespread misconceptions about eligibility for healthcare services.

Speaking at a meeting with media and science communication practitioners from the Media for Environment, Science, Health and Agriculture (MESHA) network at Parliament Buildings on Wednesday, June 24, the Committee Chairperson, Hon. Dr. James Nyikal, revealed that while about 30 million Kenyans have registered under SHA, only four to five million have paid the required premiums and therefore qualify for inpatient services.



The Chairperson of the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Health, Hon. (Dr.) James Nyikal, following a presentation by MESHA's Mr. John Riaga at a meeting with MESHA at the Parliament Buildings.

Dr. Nyikal explained that all registered Members can access primary healthcare services at Level 2 and Level 3 facilities at no cost, but hospital admissions and inpatient care are available only to contributors who have paid their premiums.

He attributed public confusion to inadequate awareness campaigns and emphasized the need for closer collaboration between policymakers and the media to ensure that citizens understand health policies and their benefits.

MESHA Chief Executive Officer Aghan Daniel proposed a structured partnership with Parliament, including regular Science Media Cafés and special publications to simplify complex health and science policy issues.

MESHA Project Officer Sharon Makimo noted that many important policy decisions are not well understood by the public due to limited communication.

Committee Members welcomed the proposal but expressed concern over the growing impact of misinformation on public policy debates.

Dr. Nyikal cited discussions about genetically modified organisms (GMOs) as an example of how public narratives often overshadow scientific evidence.

Mwea MP Hon. Mary Maingi urged journalists to prioritize factual, evidence-based reporting and to use local languages to improve public understanding.

Ndhiwa MP Hon. Martin Owino highlighted cultural barriers that discourage many men from seeking medical care.

The meeting resolved to strengthen collaboration through regular briefings, improved access to experts, and joint initiatives to increase public awareness of parliamentary work in health and science policy.

Committee orders Tanathi Water Works Agency to urgently resolve staffing anomalies



Committee Chairperson Hon. David Pkosing (right) and Vice Chairperson Hon. (Dr.) Dr. John Ariko during the meeting



Officials of Tanathi Water Works Development Agency when they appeared before the Committee

The National Assembly's Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy has directed Tanathi Water Works Development Agency to address staffing anomalies after an audit revealed that some officers were occupying positions not provided for in the Agency's approved establishment.

The meeting, chaired by Hon. David Pkosing (Pokot South), reviewed audit queries raised by the Office of the Auditor-General, with Members pressing the agency's management to explain issues ranging from budget performance to human resource compliance.

According to the Auditor-General, the agency had an approved staff establishment of 72 positions but only 42 employees in post, leaving a shortfall of 30 officers.

However, the audit further revealed that the approved establishment reflected zero positions for Supply Chain Management officers and one position for an accountant, yet the agency had three officers in supply chain management and two accountants.

Tanathi Chief Executive Officer Mr. Sammy Naparos acknowledged the finding.

"We are still understaffed and actually we have made a request to the National Treasury for recruitment of additional 17 staff," he said

Committee Members, however, pressed for explanations on how officers could be serving in positions that were not recognized in the approved structure.

Hon. Pkosing questioned how employees could occupy positions that did not exist in the approved organizational structure.

"How do you have somebody serving a job that is not there, or a non-existent job group? How is he paid?" He posed

The Committee directed the agency to redesignate and reassign the affected officers while reviewing its human resource instruments.

The Committee also examined budget implementation challenges arising from delayed exchequer releases and supported the Auditor-General's recommendation that any funds received after the close of a financial year be recognized as revenue in the following financial year.

shortfall of 50 officers.

Communication Committee reviews gig economy laws as Glovo seeks regulatory clarity



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



Glovo Kenya Country General Manager Caroline Mutuku (left) and Government Affairs Lead Kiplimo Kigen make submissions before the Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation on the need for a balanced regulatory framework for platform workers and technology-driven businesses

Parliament is considering possible legislative reforms to guide Kenya's rapidly expanding platform and gig economy following a meeting between the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation and representatives of Glovo Kenya.

During a session chaired by Dagoretti South MP Hon. John Kiarie, Glovo urged lawmakers to develop a regulatory framework that protects platform workers while preserving innovation, investment and the flexibility valued by many riders.

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

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

Glovo Kenya Country General Manager Caroline Mutuku told the Committee that the digital economy has created significant opportunities for riders, small businesses and technology professionals. She said more than 2,500 riders and over 6,000 merchants currently rely on the platform, which has generated over Kshs. 20 billion billion in economic value since entering the Kenyan market in 2019.The company supported enhanced social protections for platform workers, including insurance and other safeguards, while advocating for regulations tailored to the unique nature of digital platforms.

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

The Committee is expected to continue receiving stakeholder submissions as it considers the future legal and regulatory framework for Kenya's digital and platform economy.

State Department for Culture, Arts & Heritage calls for good will in establishing parliamentary Corners

The State Department for Culture, Arts and Heritage has called for enhanced collaboration among key stakeholders to facilitate establishment of Parliamentary Corners in libraries across the country by 2028.

Speaking in a meeting with the Committee on Broadcasting and Library Services, the Department's Principal Secretary (PS), Ms. Ummi Bashir emphasized the importance of good will and cooperation from Parliament of Kenya, State Department for Culture, the Arts and Heritage, the National Treasury, Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) and the County Governments, noting it is crucial in actualizing the initiative.

Upon establishment, the Parliamentary Corners will enhance public access to Parliamentary information such as Bills, Hansards, Committee reports and Parliamentary Research Papers.

Members of the Committee led by the Vice Chairperson, Hon. Eng. John Kiragu sought clarification on the implementation strategy and framework that would be adopted to ensure Kenyan citizens access Parliamentary legislative information.

Addressing the Committee, PS Ummi proposed a three phase roll out plan to be implemented in three financial years.

She said the initial phase will cover Parliament Library, KNLS Headquarters (Maktaba Kuu) and 8 Counties, phase two to extend to the remaining KNLS facilities like Buruburu and Nakuru and atleast one Parliamentary Corner in each County, while phase 3 will focus on full national coverage in all the 47 Counties.



Members of the Committee on Broadcasting & Library Services in a meeting with the officials from the State Department for Culture, Arts and Heritage led by PS Ummi Bashir.



The Vice Chairperson for the Committee on Broadcasting & Library Services, Hon. Eng. John Kiragu chairing a meeting with officials from the State Department for Culture, Arts and Heritage

On the framework to be used, PS Ummi emphasized on the establishment of a steering Committee, infrastructure and space development, digital access and technology integration, capacity building, public engagement and civic education.

The MPs also sought assurance from the PS regarding the welfare of staff at KNLS, specifically on whether staff had been paid their salaries.

In response, the CEO and Director General of the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS), Dr. Charles Ngui Nzivo assured MPs that the staff have always been paid their salaries on time.

To successfully implement the initiative on establishment of Parliamentary Corners, the PS urged the Committee to support KNLS with adequate financial allocation.

Labour Committee seeks stronger protection for Migrant Workers, proposes expanded mandate for NEA

The National Assembly Committee on Labour has called for an expansion of the role of the National Employment Authority (NEA) to strengthen oversight of labour Migration and safeguard Kenyans seeking employment abroad.

Lawmakers raised the concerns during a 2-days retreat to review the Labour Migration and Management (No. 2) Bill (Senate Bill No. 42 of 2024) by Senator Tabitha Mutinda.

During the deliberations, the MPs expressed concern on whether there's a need for the country to continue having private recruitment agencies in the wake of increased cases of exploitation and abuse involving Kenyan migrant workers.

The Committee Chairperson, Hon. Ken Chonga (Kilifi South) emphasized the need to empower NEA and increase their budgetary allocations to enable them take on a greater role in labour migration management.

According to the lawmakers, a strengthened NEA would help curb rogue employment agencies that charge exorbitant fees to job seekers and expose workers to unsafe working conditions.

"This will address the issue of rogue agencies who demand hefty commissions from Kenyans, deterring some who can't afford and ensure that migrant workers are protected from exploitation," said Hon. Chonga.



Hon. Ken Chonga, Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Labour, presides over a Committee meeting.

The lawmakers further argued that the expanded scope will enable NEA to oversee and implement bilateral provisions entered into between Kenya and other countries by ensuring that employment opportunities offered to both skilled and unskilled Kenyans are decent.

If this proposal by the Committee is integrated into the Bill, the government will assume a greater responsibility for the welfare of workers including repatriation incase of distress.

Hon. Ken Chonga underscored the economic importance of migrant workers, noting that remittances from Kenyans abroad support the country's economy.

"Migrant workers contribute significantly to Kenya's economic development through foreign remittances. As a country, we should roll our heads high and ensure that they are protected," added Hon. Chonga.

Should the Labour Migration and Management Bill, 2024 be enacted, it will address a long-standing regulatory gap in Kenya's governance of a sector that involves hundreds of thousands of vulnerable workers who contribute dollars in annual foreign exchange.

The Committee is expected to hold further engagements with the National Employment Authority and the State Department for Labour and Skills Development on proposals aimed at empowering NEA's capacity to safeguard migrant workers.

Energy PS and Ex-Ketraco bosses set to appear before PAC over multi-million wayleave compensation

The Public Accounts Committee, chaired by Hon. Tindi Mwale (Butere), has resolved to summon the Principal Secretary for Energy, Mr. Alex Wachira, and other officials over the irregular payment of billions of shillings in wayleave compensation.

The decision was made after the PS failed to appear before the Committee to respond to queries raised in a forensic Audit report. The report concerns wayleave compensation in seven donor-funded projects implemented by the Kenya Electricity Transmission Company Ltd (KETRACO).

According to the Special Audit report that covered 13 financial years, starting from 2010/11 to 2022/23, the compensation project was budgeted at Sh17.02 billion, of which Sh4.03 billion remains outstanding to date.



PAC Chairperson Hon. Tindi Mwale during a meeting of the house team

Also summoned are former Principal Secretaries and former Managing Directors and CEOs of KETRACO who served during the implementation of the projects. Among them is Kakamega Governor Hon. Fernandes Barasa.

Hon. Mwale directed that the Committee will also meet accounting officers who were responsible for the projects during the period under review.

He said the Committee is determined to establish the legitimacy of the compensation payments and determine whether Kenyans received value for money.

"As a Committee, we are committed to establishing the genuineness of the compensation claims and whether Kenyans obtained value for money from the projects," said Hon. Mwale.

The donor funded projects include; the Ethiopia - Kenya Transmission Line, Kenya - Tanzania Transmission Line, and the Kenya - Uganda Transmission Line.

Others include the Kenya Power Transmission System Improvement Project, Turkwel-Ortum-Kitale Transmission Line, Olkaria-Lessos Transmission Line and the Nairobi Ring Road Transmission Line.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



Abductions, disappearances, and goonism have no place in modern-day Kenya. The reason we have a very good Constitution is to ensure that individuals accused of crimes are subject to the rule of law. I am sure you have heard about the recent trend where people go missing or are abducted. The police are asked to conduct investigations, but that is often where it ends. Criminal responsibility is individual. Abductions must end because they are unconstitutional and totally unacceptable in modern-day Kenya. Every Kenyan deserves protection under the law, due process, accountability, and justice without fear, intimidation, or unlawful detention."

- Hon. Adan Keynan (Eldas)



"I must commend the Budget and Appropriations Committee for the funds allocated to the education sector, which continues to account for the largest share of our budget. The education sector has received an allocation of Ksh781.4 billion in the 2026/2027 Financial Year. A country that does not invest in education is planning to fail. Education will give our children the opportunity to fulfil their dreams and come to Parliament to represent their people. We should continue investing in education by increasing capitation for our primary, junior secondary, and secondary schools to ensure every learner has access to quality education nationwide."

-Hon. Naisula Lesuuda (Samburu West)



Across the world, countries are increasingly coming together to promote economic research, education, agriculture, and trade. We encourage our East African brothers and sisters, with Kenya playing a leading role because of its strong economy in the region, to cooperate in doing business. Our biggest business opportunities should involve our neighbouring countries rather than Western nations. Currently, many of our major trade partners are outside Africa, including China, Europe, and various Asian countries. However, intraregional trade remains imbalanced, with some countries mainly exporting while others primarily import, limiting mutual economic growth.""

-Hon. Peter Nabulindo (Matungu)



I commend the Budget Committee for remembering village elders. Every day, when families have disputes, the first person they turn to is the Village Elder. When a child goes missing, the Village Elder is called. Whenever communities face problems, the Village Elder is the first point of contact. This modest allocation marks the beginning of greater government support. Village Elders in Mombasa and across Kenya have finally been recognized and will receive a modest stipend to assist them. God willing, we will continue pushing for increased support so their allocation grows over time benefiting those who serve our communities faithfully."

-Hon. Zamzam Mohammed (Mombasa County)



The Equalisation Fund, as passed by this House, was meant to benefit the marginalised areas of this country that have remained behind in terms of development for a long time. The implementation of the Equalisation Fund by county governments has left out a critical player in the exercise, namely, the representatives of the people. County governments have implemented projects without involving elected representatives at the constituency level. We need a probe into how the funds have been used across all eligible parts of the country where the Fund is intended to support equitable development and improve essential public services."

- Hon. Justice Kemei (Sigowet/Soin)



More female candidates need to come forth and offer themselves for leadership offices in the upcoming 2027 elections. This will be the only way to ensure that the voice of women is heard in various leadership positions. I urge all development partners that support women's political participation to come in early and support this important demographic group, preferably before party primaries. Many good and credible female aspirants are lost at this stage, while support often comes too close to the General Election. We must invest in their capacity and campaigns early to improve their chances of success across the country."

-Hon. Leah Sankaire (Kajiado)



Kenya is fortunate to have leading researchers in the region. The country has been a leader in leprosy research at Alupe, which was once an isolation centre. When HIV emerged, patients were initially isolated until it was recognised that the disease was not spread through casual contact. Research collaborations involving institutions such as Cambridge University greatly strengthened Kenya's capacity. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the country faced a daunting task of finding hospital beds. Makeshift facilities, including some in Kibera, helped save lives. However, the contribution of Nairobi Hospital to the national response should not be overlooked."

-Hon. (Prof) Guyo Jaldesa (Moyale)



As we speak, in Garissa, four young men arrested in the Dadaab-Liboi area are still missing. Police allegedly arrived in unmarked vehicles and took them away, but when we follow up the issue, we are told they will either be released or are not in custody. Later, some are reportedly found abandoned in nearby bushes. The law requires that an arrested person be released within 24 hours or arraigned in court. We are worried because criminals can exploit similar tactics, making it difficult to distinguish lawful arrests from abductions. The fight against crime must not come at the expense of constitutionalism."

- Hon. Umulkher Harun (Nominated)



I would like to emphasise youth funding and empowerment programmes for Kenya's young population. This potential remains underutilised. Given the limited economic and employment opportunities available, we must allocate more resources to vocational training, enterprise development, innovation hubs, sports, and digital skills. We also need to provide young people with affordable credit facilities so they can create opportunities for themselves where formal employment is scarce. Empowering our youth is not merely an expenditure. It is an investment in the country's future prosperity, economic stability, and sustainable development. Investing in our youth today secures a stronger and more resilient nation tomorrow."

-Hon. David Ndakwa (Malava)



I recognise the importance of regional integration through the East African Community (EAC) . I wish to emphasise Kenya's role as a leading partner within the EAC. I once thought Kenya conducted most of its trade outside the EAC, but I discovered that much of our trade is within the region. Kenya is among the biggest beneficiaries of this regional bloc. We must ensure the EAC institutions continue serving all partner States effectively. We should also support the Council of Ministers and the Summit in strengthening regional cooperation. Regional integration should benefit trade, institutions, legislatures, partner States, and citizens alike together."

-Hon. Irene Mayaka (Nominated)

BUNGE MASHINANI

KAPSERET CONSTITUENCY



A house built by Hon. Sudi for legendary kalenjin musician Mzee Andrea Chamdany

Hon Sudi rewards legendary Kalenjin musician Mzee Chamdany with houses and car

It was all smiles for legendary Kalenjin musician Mzee Andrea Chamdany as Kapseret MP, Hon. Oscar Sudi handed over two modern houses and a car at his home in Kericho County.

During the ceremony attended by Kipkelion East MP Hon. Joseph Chererot and the Presidential Advisor for Great Lakes region Charles Keter, Hon. Sudi said that Mzee Chamdany spent his years turning stories, faith, and struggles into music that taught and healed generations.

"The same voice that carried "Rirenech Oh Kwandanyo" into our homes for decades now has a roof that carries him back. It is only fitting that Kericho now returns the honour, with homes that give dignity to the man whose songs once gave dignity to all of us," he said.

Hon. Sudi addded "A new set of wheels for a man who spent his life carrying our songs. The voice behind "Rirenech Oh Kwandanyo" no longer has to walk distances his music once traveled on foot,"

TAVETA CONSTITUENCY

Hon. Bwire commits CDF support as Eldoro Girls raises Ksh.4.4 million for school bus

Eldoro Girls School recorded a major milestone after raising KSh 4,467,600 during a fundraising event aimed at purchasing a new school bus.

The event, which brought together parents, education stakeholders, alumni and Members of the community, was graced by the area's MP as the Guest of Honour.

Addressing the gathering, Taveta MP, Hon John Bwire commended parents for their commitment to investing in their children's education and encouraged students to remain disciplined, focused and determined to achieve academic excellence.

In a significant boost to the fundraising initiative, Hon. Bwire said he will settle the remaining balance required to purchase the school bus through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), ensuring the school acquires the much-needed vehicle.

Speaking during the event, the school management expressed confidence in the institution's academic trajectory, revealing ambitious plans to have at least 30 students join university next year. The announcement was welcomed as a reflection of the school's commitment to improving educational outcomes and expanding opportunities for its learners.



Hon. Bwire (Mp Taveta) rewards student during the fundraising

SABATIA CONSTITUENCY



Modern storey building at Kivagala primary school set to be occupied by pupils. The building houses seven classrooms among other facilities.

Sabatia MP transforms learning environment with modern storey classrooms

Pupils at Kivagala primary school in Sabatia constituency will soon benefit from a modern learning environment following the construction of a state-of-the-art storey classroom block funded by the NG-CDF under the leadership of area MP, Hon. Clement Sloya.

The facility comprises seven classrooms, an administration unit, and a boardroom, marking the school's first-ever storey building since its establishment.

"I promised a new dawn for the people of Sabatia, and together, we are delivering," said Hon. Sloya.

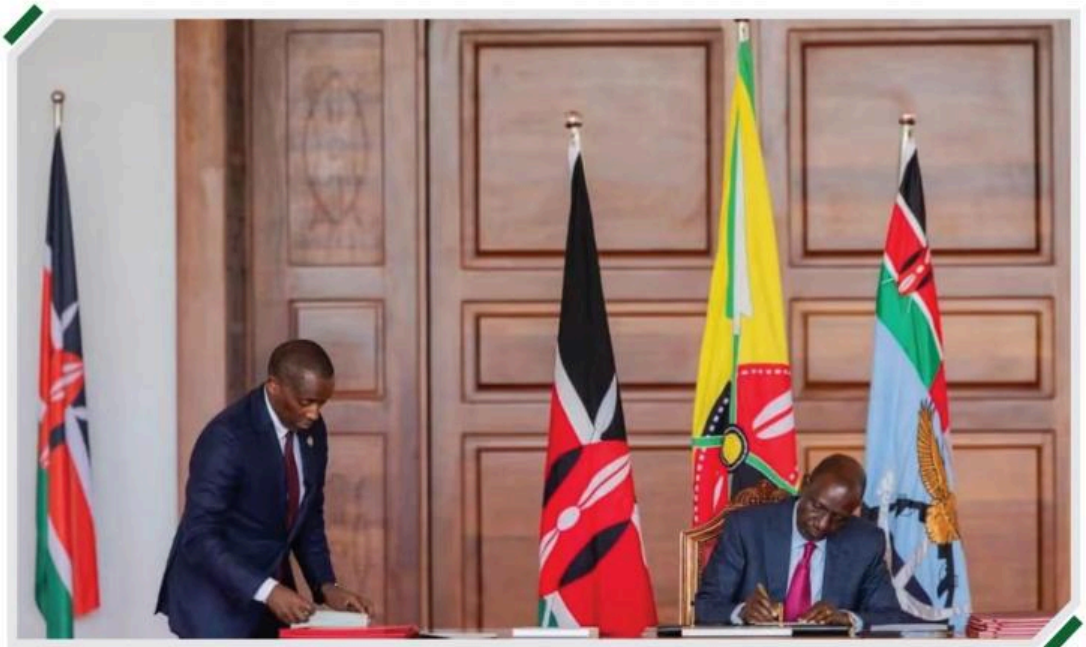
The education transformation extends to Chandumba secondary, Havuyiya primary and Mwilitsa primary schools, where another modern storey buildings are under construction. The facility will include classrooms, an administration unit, a boardroom, and an ICT room, further enhancing the quality of learning in the constituency.

Parents have praised Hon. Sloya's development record noting that as a first timer he has done

promised a new dawn for the

that as a first timer he has done much better than previous MPs.

CLIQUE & CLICKS



The President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E Dr. William Ruto, assents to the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 2) Act, 2026 at State House, Nairobi on Tuesday last week. Watching on is the Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Samuel Njoroge



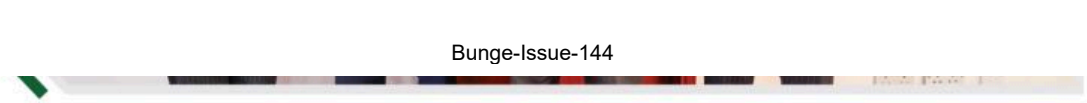
Members of the Budget and Appropriation Committee, Hon. John Paul Mwirigi and Hon. Christopher Aseka consult during a meeting



National Assembly Speaker, the Rt. Hon. Moses Wetang'ula (Center), Senate Speaker, Rt. Hon. Amason Kingi and Likoni MP Mishi Mboko enjoy a jig on Saturday, 20th June 2026 during a fundraiser for the Salute Community-Based Organization in Likoni, Mombasa County Speaker Wetang'ula was a chief Guest



Glovo Kenya Country General Manager, Ms. Caroline Mutuku (left) and Government Affairs lead, Mr. Kiplimo Kigen pose with Members of the Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation, Hon. John Kiarie (Chairperson-second right) and Hon. Phillip Miruka (second left) after they made submissions to the Committee on the need for a balanced regulatory framework for platform workers and technology-driven businesses



BUNGE Weekly

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Speaker Wetang'ula champions Likoni women ventures with fundraising drive



National Assembly Speaker, the Rt. Hon. Moses Wetang'ula during a fundraiser for the Salute Community-Based Organization in Likoni, Mombasa County where he was a chief guest on the invitation of Likoni MP, Mishi Mboko on Saturday, 20 th June 2026

National Assembly Speaker, the Rt. Hon. Moses Wetang'ula has praised the role of women in driving community development, saying they are central to Kenya's social and economic transformation.

Speaking at a fundraiser for the Salute Community-Based Organization in Likoni constituency, Mombasa County last week Wetang'ula commended the women leading the initiatives, saying their work demonstrates the impact of empowering women at the grassroots level.

The Speaker, who was the chief guest at the event hosted at the invitation of Likoni MP Hon. Mishi Mboko told the gathering that community-driven projects remain key to improving livelihoods, strengthening local economies, and creating opportunities for vulnerable groups.

"It is inspiring to see women at the forefront of this noble cause. Across Kenya, women have consistently demonstrated that when they are empowered economically and socially, they become catalysts for positive change within their families and communities," he said.

The release that turned the tide

This week in history



June 1991: Raila Odinga with his wife Ida and their children after his release from prison

On the morning of 21 June 1991, Raila Amolo Odinga walked out of detention, the last of three men imprisoned for organising a pro-democracy rally at Kamukunji. His co-detainees, Kenneth Matiba and former Nairobi Mayor Charles Rubia, had been released earlier on medical grounds. Raila's freedom was not an act of government goodwill but a concession forced by sustained pressure from civil society, the Church and Western donors, particularly the United States and Scandinavian countries, which had tied development assistance to democratic reforms.

The significance of that moment can only be understood by looking back nine years earlier. On 9 June 1982, the National Assembly voted unanimously, 158-0, to amend the Constitution by introducing Section 2A, declaring KANU the country's only legal political party. The amendment, sponsored by Constitutional Affairs Minister Charles Njonjo and seconded by Vice-President Mwai Kibaki, took effect on 25 June 1982. It abolished the constitutional definition of a political party, made KANU membership mandatory for anyone seeking elective office and required MPs who left the party to surrender their seats.

In the years that followed, Parliament enacted laws that entrenched executive authority, including removing judges' security of tenure, extending detention without trial and introducing the controversial mlolongo queue-voting system in 1988. By 1990, the House had become the legal instrument through which President Daniel arap Moi's rule was continually reinforced.

Within weeks of Raila's release, the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (FORD) emerged under the leadership of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga and other opposition figures. Though declared illegal, FORD gathered unstoppable momentum. In November 1991, KANU delegates endorsed the repeal of Section 2A, and in December Parliament passed Constitutional Amendment No. 12 of 1991, restoring multiparty democracy. Less than six months after Raila's release, the same Parliament that had entrenched one-party rule dismantled it.

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