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BUNGE Weekly

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

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Monday, August 31st, 2026 to Monday, September 7th, 2026



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Speaker holds Papal audience with Pope Leo XIV in Rome

Speaker of the National Assembly Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula confers with Pope Leo XIV during his visit to the Vatican



Security Committee pledges resources to expand Lii, Magado police training camps. The Committee, led by Narok West MP Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo, made the commitment on Saturday during an inspection of the Magado Field Campus, owned by the Kenya Police Service (KPS), and Lii Field Training Camp, operated by the Administration Police Service (APS) in Igembe North, Meru County.

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Narok West MP Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo , who chairs the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security alongside Kenya Police Service (KPS) Deputy Inspector General Eliud Lagat, during a visit to Magado Field Campus , owned by the Kenya Police Service (KPS) in Igembe North, Meru County

Plenary

NG-CDF Committee pledges support for submerged Natole Primary School in Turkana



Members of the NG-CDF Committee inspect the submerged Natole Primary School in Turkana Central, Turkana County, by boat.

Parents and Board Members of the submerged Natole Primary School in Turkana Central Constituency have called on the government and well-wishers to help rebuild the school, which has been completely submerged by Lake Turkana since January 2025.

Speaking to the National Assembly Committee on NG-CDF during its inspection visit to projects funded by the NG-CDF across Turkana County, the school headteacher, Mr. Lomoti Kiana, told the Committee that since 2025, a total of 905 learners have been displaced and relocated to Kalokol Mixed Secondary School.

According to the headteacher, the school began to be submerged in 2023, and by January 2025 it had been completely swallowed by the rising Lake Turkana.

"We had 905 learners who are now at Kalokol Mixed Secondary School. This school doesn't have the infrastructure to accommodate all these students, and they are forced to sit on the cold floor to fit because if they use desks, the room won't fit them all. Parents and the BOM have already purchased a piece of land, and we are calling on the government and well-wishers to help us rebuild our school again," Mr. Kiana said.

Hon. Musa Sirma, Committee Chairperson, admitted that the learners were in dire need of assistance, even as he stated that they were yet to establish the cause of the lake's swelling and the bursting of its banks, as recently witnessed in the Rift Valley region.

"This is an emergency that has affected and displaced our children, and we need serious intervention to restore the school. Even as we leave here today, we will talk to the NG-CDF Board to step in and help rebuild the school," Hon. Sirma said.

Hon. Sirma further called for public participation between the area MPs and locals in order to identify the priority projects to be funded by them.

At the same time, the Committee inspected a number of projects in Loima and Turkana North Constituencies.



A section of submerged classrooms at Natole Primary School.

Speaker holds Papal audience with Pope Leo XIV in Rome



National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula walking to the Vatican in the company of MPs; Hon. Peter Kaluma, Hon. John Bwire, Hon. Lydia Haika, Hon. Katana Kahindi, Hon. Paul Abuor and Amb. Rose Sumbeiywo, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Kenya to the Holy See in Rome, Italy on his visit to Italy on Wednesday 26th August 2026.

National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula has conveyed a goodwill message from the people of Kenya to Pope Leo XIV during a Papal Audience at the Vatican.

Dr. Wetang'ula held discussions with the Holy Father during the General Audience, which brought together faithful from across the world, and reflected on issues of peace, hope, human dignity and service to humanity.

The Speaker said his meeting with Pope Leo provided an opportunity to exchange views on issues of mutual interest while representing Kenya at the Vatican.

"I was privileged to meet and engage His Holiness Pope Leo during a Papal Audience at the Vatican, a moment that provided the opportunity to convey the goodwill message of the people of Kenya and reflect with the Holy Father on a wide range of issues," Dr. Wetang'ula said.

He said the encounter reinforced the importance of dialogue and solidarity in

(Continued) from Page 2

addressing challenges facing communities and nations.

Dr. Wetang'ula said the Pope's message of hope, compassion and human solidarity was particularly significant in a world grappling with challenges that require greater cooperation among nations and peoples.

"This memorable encounter renewed my commitment to serving with integrity and purpose while drawing inspiration from the Holy Father's message of hope, compassion and human solidarity," he said.

The Speaker said Kenya remained committed to strengthening international partnerships based on mutual respect, dialogue and shared values.

The Vatican engagement also provided an opportunity for the Kenyan delegation to interact with members of the clergy and other participants during the visit.

Dr. Wetang'ula was accompanied by Members of Parliament Hon. Peter Kaluma (Homa Bay Town), Hon. John Bwire (Taveta), Hon. Lydia Haika (Taita Taveta), Hon. Katana Kahindi (Kaloleni) and Hon. Paul Abuor (Rongo), as well as Ambassador Rose Sumbeiywo, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Kenya to the Holy See in Rome.

> "This memorable encounter renewed my commitment to serving with integrity and purpose while drawing inspiration from the Holy Father's message of hope, compassion and human solidarity," said Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula

Health stakeholders differ over legislative proposal



Hon. Duncan Mathenge (Nyeri Town), the sponsor of the Medical Practitioners and Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2026 makes a point at the meeting. Looking on is Hon. Pauline Lenguris (Samburu)

A proposed law seeking to strengthen regulation and curb malpractice in the health sector has drawn mixed reactions from stakeholders.

The views emerged during a public engagement on the Medical Practitioners and Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2026, held by the Departmental Committee on Health, led by the Seme MP and Committee Chairperson Hon. (Dr.) James Nyikal.

The Bill, sponsored by Nyeri Town MP, Hon. Duncan Mathenge, seeks to regulate community oral health officers, dental technologists and optometrists.

The proposed law further seeks to curb the fraudulent acquisition of registration licences by healthcare practitioners and strengthen oversight of the profession.

The Bill also proposes penalties for health facilities that detain patients or bodies of deceased persons over unpaid medical bills. According to the proposal, anyone found guilty of detaining a patient or the body of a deceased person over unpaid medical bills will face a fine of up to Kshs. 5 million, imprisonment for up to five years, or both.

Stakeholders from government agencies, the private sector and various medical unions however differed on several provisions of the Bill.

Among the key objections was the proposed fines, which stakeholders argued were too high, noting that unpaid medical bills are a sensitive issue that affects many families. They proposed allowing hospitals and families to agree on flexible payment arrangements, including instalment plans.

Dr. Davji Bhimji Atellah, Secretary General of the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU), on his part called for the withdrawal of the entite Bill.

He argued that existing laws and regulatory mechanisms are adequate to address malpractice and maintain standards in the health sector.

Dr. Nyikal said the Committee would carefully consider the views presented before making its recommendations on the Bill.

He said the welfare of patients must remain at the centre of efforts to reform the health sector.

"Our focus as health practitioners should be on the patients and giving them a better experience. I am happy that we have not lost that focus during our deliberations today," said Dr. Nyikal.



Health Committee Members (L-R) Chaiperson Hon. (Dr.) James Nyikal, Hon. (Dr.) Robert Pukose (Endebess), Hon. Pauline Lenguris (Samburu) and Hon. Julius Sunkuli (Kilgoris) during the meeting with stakeholders on the Medical Practitioners and Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

MPs back Power of Mercy Bill to ease prison congestion and promote rehabilitation



National Assembly in session

Members of the National Assembly have backed the proposed Power of Mercy Bill, 2025, saying the legislation will provide a structured and accountable framework for the exercise of presidential mercy while helping address prison congestion and promote rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.

The Bill, sponsored by the Leader of the Majority Party, Hon Kimani Ichung'wah, seeks to give effect to Article 133 of the Constitution by providing a clear legal framework for the exercise of the Power of Mercy and strengthening the mandate of the Power of Mercy Advisory Committee.

Article 133 empowers the President, acting on the advice of the Advisory Committee, to grant a person a free or conditional pardon, postpone or substitute a punishment with a less severe form, or remit all or part of a sentence.

The Bill seeks to provide the institutional and procedural framework for implementing these constitutional powers.

Hon. Ichung'wah said the legislation would provide a reprieve for individuals who may have been imprisoned for offences but deserve a second chance.

"We have many people languishing in our prisons who do not deserve to be there because we are a country where even justice has become for sale," said Hon. Ichung'wah, further adding that some people may have ended up in prison because they could not afford legal services or were up against people with greater financial means.

He argued that the proposed law would provide such persons with an opportunity to seek mercy through a formal process.

The Bill, however, does not envisage arbitrary release of prisoners. Instead, it establishes a structured process through which petitions for mercy are considered and recommendations made to the President. The proposed framework provides for mechanisms including free and conditional pardons, substitution of less severe punishment and remission of all or part of a sentence.

Molo MP, Hon. Kuria Kimani in supporting the Bill noted

"This is not an open door for arbitrary releases, it is now going to a structured, evidence-based system that balances mercy with justice, public safety, and the rights of victims," said Hon. Kuria Kimani.

"The benefits of this Bill are that, if it passes, it is going to reduce overcrowding and lower the cost of running prisons," he further said.

The Bill is also expected to facilitate the supervised early release and reintegration of fully rehabilitated offenders. The Government has previously indicated that the reforms are intended to ease prison overcrowding while strengthening public safety through reintegration measures.

Hon. Bishop Kosgei said the Bill had come at an opportune time, noting that congestion in correctional facilities and the increasing number of people serving sentences for petty offences required innovative approaches to correctional justice.



Narok West MP Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo , who chairs the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security alongside Teso North MP, Hon. Oku Kaunya confers with Administration Police Service (APS) Deputy Inspector General Gilbert Masengeli during a visit to Lii Field Training Camp, operated by the Administration Police Service (APS) in Igembe North, Meru County.

Security Committee pledges resources to expand Lii, Magado police training camps

The National Assembly Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security has pledged to support efforts to secure additional resources for the expansion and improvement of police training facilities.

The Committee, led by Narok West MP Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo, made the commitment on Saturday during an inspection of the Magado Field Campus, owned by the Kenya Police Service (KPS), and Lii Field Training Camp, operated by the Administration Police Service (APS) in Igembe North, Meru County.

The visit was part of the Committee's budget implementation oversight programme. MPs Hon. Francis Sigei (Sotik), Hon. Aduma Owuor (Nyakach) and Hon. Oku Kaunya (Teso North)

The lawmakers assessed infrastructure at the two facilities and their preparedness to accommodate and train police officers and National Police Reservists (NPRs).

Mr. Tongoyo said Parliament would use its oversight and budgetary powers to address gaps identified at the facilities.

"Where there are gaps in infrastructure, equipment or other resources, we shall take up the matter through the appropriate parliamentary processes," he said.

Magado has recently assumed a larger role in NPR training, with 700 reservists drawn from different counties and conservancies reporting to the facility for a one-month intensive course.

The centralization of the programme is intended to provide standardized training and ensure reservists receive uniform instruction before deployment to support security operations in their respective areas.

The Committee was hosted at Magado by KPS Deputy Inspector General Eliud Lagat, who led the lawmakers on a tour of the facility.

Mr. Lagat urged the 700 reservists to take the training seriously, saying discipline and commitment were critical to effective security operations.

"You have been brought here because of the responsibility that awaits you. Take this training seriously," he told the trainees.

He said centralizing NPR training would improve consistency in preparing reservists from different parts of the country.

The Committee also inspected Lii Field Training Camp, where it was hosted by APS Deputy Inspector General Gilbert Masengeli.

Mr. Masengeli said investment in training infrastructure was critical to strengthening the capacity of the service and ensuring officers were adequately prepared for increasingly complex security challenges.

"Training is at the centre of an effective security service. Our officers must be equipped with the skills, discipline and knowledge necessary to respond to the challenges they encounter in the field," he said.

Hon. Tongoyo assured security officers and reservists that Parliament was concerned not only about training but also their welfare, equipment and working environment.

The Committee's tour forms part of Parliament's broader oversight mandate on the implementation of budgets allocated to security agencies.

accompanied Hon. Tongoyo.

the training seriously, saying discipline and agencies.



Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education Chairperson and Luanda MP Hon. Dick Maungu.

PIC Education questions 13-year delay of Kagumo College project, idle generator

Members of the National Assembly Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education have raised concern over a Kshs.170 million infrastructure project at Kagumo Teachers' Training College that has remained incomplete for more than 13 years.

The Committee, chaired by Luanda MP Hon. Dick Maungu questioned the college management over the stalled project and an electricity generator that has remained unused for about 11 years.

The MPs were examining Auditor-General's reports covering the Nyeri-based college for the 2018/19 to 2024/25 financial years.

An Auditor-General's representative told the Committee that the project, comprising classrooms, staircases and washrooms, had stalled for more than a decade. A physical verification conducted in January 2025 found that only exterior walls and shutters had been constructed on one side of the building.

The audit also raised concerns over a generator procured for the project but never installed or formally handed over to the college.

Chief Principal Irene Mwangi confirmed that the project remained stalled, attributing the delay to lack of development funds and the fact that it had initially been implemented by the Ministry of Public Works.

"It is true we have a stalled project. Nothing has changed," Ms Mwangi told MPs.

She said the generator had been received by the Ministry of Public Works and was yet to be formally handed over to the college. The supplier had retained its keys because it had not been formally handed over and paid for under the original project arrangements.

Former principal Francis Mwangi, who served from 2018 to 2022, backed the explanation, saying the college had previously engaged the ministry over the project, including a dispute involving the contractor.

Kiminini MP Hon. Maurice Bissau criticised the prolonged delay, saying public resources should not remain tied up in an idle facility.

"You cannot have a white elephant for 11 years," Mr Bissau said.

Sotik MP Hon. Francis Sigei called for Ministry of Public Works officials to appear before the Committee and explain why the project had remained unresolved.

The MPs also questioned discrepancies between the figures in the audit report and those presented by the college regarding the project's contract value and completion level.

Kasipul MP and Committee vice chairperson Hon. Boyd Were said the amount paid appeared disproportionate to the work completed. Ms Mwangi acknowledged an error in one figure and put the correct project value at about Kshs.170 million.

The Committee also raised concerns over alleged double payments to staff and urged the college to strengthen financial management.

MPs were further briefed on a stalled second wing of the college hostel, estimated at Kshs. 65.2 million. Physical verification found one section complete while another had remained at slab level since 2020. Ms Mwangi said the college had sought funding to complete the facility.

MPs demand inquiry into Safaricom SIM deactivation and number reassignment

Members of Parliament have called for an investigation into Safaricom's practice of deactivating inactive SIM cards and reassigning their numbers, warning that the practice could expose subscribers to financial losses, fraud and violations of data protection and consumer rights.

The MPs spoke in the National Assembly while debating a petition by Thompson Kirongo, who wants Parliament to examine whether Safaricom PLC complies with constitutional and statutory requirements when deactivating and reallocating mobile numbers.

The petitioner alleges that Safaricom ordinarily deactivates SIM cards after about six months of inactivity and subsequently assigns the numbers to new subscribers without providing adequate notice to the previous users.

He argues that the practice can leave former subscribers unable to access mobile money accounts, financial services and personal data associated with their lines.

The petition has been committed to the Public Petitions Committee, which is expected to investigate the matter and report its findings to the House and the petitioner.

Matuga MP, Hon. Kassim Tandaza said subscribers should be notified when their former numbers are reassigned to new users to prevent accidental transfer of money to strangers.

Hon. Tandaza said he had personally sent money to a number saved in his phone under a particular name, only to discover that the number had been reassigned and the intended recipient did not receive the funds.

"This is within Safaricom's capacity and responsibility to ensure that once they reassign a number, they notify those who had previously saved that number," he said.



Samburu West MP Hon. Naisula Lesuuda urged the Committee to also examine how mobile numbers linked to mobile money and other financial services are handled when subscribers die.

She said the focus should also be on fraudsters who exploit publicly available telephone numbers to extort money from MPs and other Kenyans.

Nominated MP Hon. Irene Mayaka raised concerns over the protection of personal information during SIM deactivation and reassignment, particularly as the country heads into an intense election period.

She urged Safaricom to demonstrate its compliance with data protection laws and explain how subscribers' personal information is safeguarded when numbers are transferred without their knowledge.

North Imenti MP Hon Rahim Dawood cited another incident of SIM swapping, claiming that a victim in Meru allegedly lost Kshs.2.7 million from four bank accounts after his SIM was swapped without his authorisation.

He urged the Committee to investigate SIM swapping and determine whether telecommunications companies should compensate customers who lose money through unauthorised SIM changes.

The MPs also called for scrutiny of the handling of unclaimed funds linked to inactive or reassigned numbers and safeguards for the estates of deceased subscribers.

The petition argues that reassignment of numbers linked to deceased persons could interfere with the administration of estates, while unclaimed funds should be handled in accordance with the Unclaimed Financial Assets Act.

The Public Petitions Committee is expected to summon relevant authorities and Safaricom to respond to the concerns raised before presenting its report to Parliament.

Hon. Elachi urges Kenyans to end stigma against people with health conditions

Kenyans have been urged to stop stigmatizing and discriminating against people living with mental health conditions.

Hon. Beatrice Elachi (Dagoretti North) said stigma and discrimination remain major barriers to accessing mental health care in the country.

"Very many people suffer in silence because of fear of being judged and also the misinformation around mental health conditions. This is quite unfortunate," she said.

Hon. Elachi spoke on Thursday during a mental health and safety training session for members of the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA).

She said everyone, including political leaders, has a role to play in combating stigma associated with mental health conditions.

"We should all work towards fighting the common perception that mental illness is madness through awareness, education and supporting those facing mental health challenges," said Hon. Elachi.

Hon. Elachi is the Vice Chairperson of KEWOPA, a non-partisan caucus comprising women legislators from both the National Assembly and the Senate.



Hon. Beatrice Elachi (Second from right) poses for a group photo with other participants that attended a leadership convention organized by KEWOPA

KEWOPA partnered with NIVISHE Foundation and Solidarity to deliver the training to legislators.

During the session, members shared personal experiences about the pressures they face as women in politics, including public scrutiny, criticism on social media, demanding constituents and expectations to remain strong. They also highlighted the difficulty of finding time to rest and take care of themselves.

Facilitators emphasized that mental health deserves the same attention as physical health and that seeking help should not be viewed as a weakness.

The discussions challenged the stigma surrounding mental health and called for more open conversations to make seeking support a normal and responsible step.

Participants noted that the issue is particularly important for women in political leadership, who are often expected to remain strong regardless of the personal challenges they may be experiencing.

Committee on National Cohesion directs DPP to resubmit report



Committee chairperson Hon. Adan Haji making his remarks during a meeting with DPP Mr Renson Ingonga.

The National Assembly Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity has directed the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Mr. Renson Ingonga, to resubmit a report that met the required standards.

This is after the DPP had tabled a report that did not meet the required standards nor responded to all the audit queries.

Mr. Ingonga appeared before the Committee, chaired by Mandera West MP Hon. Adan Yusuf Haji, to respond to queries on employment diversity and the implementation of the 30 per cent reservation of public procurement opportunities for disadvantaged groups.

However, the DPP faced sharp criticism after Members of Parliament rejected the report, saying it lacked supporting documentation and failed to adequately address the issues raised in the Committee's invitation letter.

"Your report is poorly prepared and inadmissible because it lacks supporting documents to demonstrate compliance with the law on ethnic balance in staff recruitment and equal employment opportunities for persons living with disabilities (PLWDs)," said Hon. Haji.

He added: "In the letter inviting you before the Committee, we raised 14 accountability questions, yet you have only attempted to answer five and failed to respond to seven others."

On the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions' failure to meet the legal threshold for the employment of PLWDs, Mr. Ingonga told the Committee that few persons living with disabilities apply for advertised positions.

"Most PLWDs do not apply whenever vacancies are advertised, making it difficult for us to meet the legal requirements during recruitment. We would appreciate Parliament's support in addressing that challenge," said Mr. Ingonga.

However, Members led by the Committee's Vice Chairperson, Hon. Duncan Mathenge, dismissed the explanation as insufficient.

"Your office has the capacity to reach out to PLWDs during recruitment. It is inappropriate to shift that responsibility to Parliament. You have been conducting recruitment annually, yet your report does not demonstrate any meaningful effort to employ PLWDs," said Hon. Mathenge, the MP for Nyeri Town.

Mr. Ingonga acknowledged the shortcomings in the report submitted to the Committee and requested additional time to prepare a comprehensive response.

Ndhiwa MP Hon. Martin Owino and Shinyalu MP Hon. Fred Ikana advised the DPP to seek guidance from the Committee Secretariat on the format and content required to meet the Committee's reporting standards.

The Chairperson granted the DPP additional time to prepare and submit a revised report. The Committee will communicate a fresh date for his appearance.



Members of the Cohesion and Equal Opportunities Committee follow proceedings during the meeting.

Delegated Legislation Committee backs new proposals to guide operations of Constituency and County offices

The Committee on Delegated Legislation, chaired by Hon. Samuel Chepkonga (Ainabkoi), has adopted a major overhaul of regulations for constituency and county offices proposed by the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC).

The revisions, the first since 2005, are meant to align the regulatory framework with the current Constitution and the Public Finance Management Act. Central to the reform is a new set of protections for Members of Parliament, effectively shielding their personal assets from labour disputes and administrative failures arising from the running of their offices.



The Chairperson of the Committee on Delegated Legislation Hon. Samuel Chepkonga during a meeting with the Officials from the Parliamentary Service Commission at Bunge Tower, Parliament Buildings. Inset- The Committee during the session.

A key aspect of the reform is the shift in staff employment terms from five-year contracts to one-year renewable ones, a change intended to give MPs greater flexibility and control over their personnel.

During the Committee's review, Hon.Samuel Chepkonga emphasised just how important that authority is, noting that a Member of Parliament having control over her own staff matters a great deal, and that anyone who breaches their contractual obligations would have to "take a walk" and wait until the next contract cycle.

The regulations also tackle a long-standing grievance over personal liability in labour disputes. Previously, court awards arising from wrongful dismissal claims could result in an MP's personal salary being attached.

Under the new rules, such awards will instead be recovered from the constituency or county office allocation rather than from the MP directly. The change follows harrowing accounts shared by Members who described aggressive debt collection over staff disagreements.

Mathare lawmaker, Hon. Anthony Olouch recalled an ordeal where his salary was attached.

" I rushed to the bank and closed that account to take the money elsewhere so that it is not seized."

To further limit costly and public legal battles, the PSC has established an in-house arbitration process. A three-commissioner panel will now handle staff disputes internally, sparing MPs the embarrassment of contesting such matters in open employment courts.

The new rules also bring relief on statutory deductions such as NSSF and SHIF. The Commission has agreed to bear the cost of penalties where late remittances are caused by delays on the PSC's end rather than the constituency or county office.

Additionally, new handing-over protocols will hold outgoing office managers financially accountable for outstanding liabilities, ensuring incoming MPs do not inherit unpaid taxes or debts from previous administrations.

Committee on Tourism opposes proposed merger of Tourism Research Institute and Kenya Tourism Board

The Committee on Tourism has opposed a proposal to merge the Tourism Research Institute (TRI) with the Kenya Tourism Board (KTB), terming the move counterproductive.

Members of the Tourism and Wildlife Committee said allowing TRI, a key entity in the tourism sector, to be absorbed into KTB could undermine the stability and growth of the sector.

The Members made the remarks during an engagement with tourism sector stakeholders led by Tourism Principal Secretary Amb. Prof. Julius Bitok.

The meeting, chaired by Hon. Kareke Mbiuki, sought views from industry players on the Tourism (Amendment) Bill, 2026, sponsored by Leader of the Majority Party Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah.



Tourism and Wildlife Committee chairperson Hon. Kareke Mbiuki making his contribution during a meeting with stakeholders to review the Tourism (amendment) Bill, 2026.

Hon. Mbiuki said TRI was a critical organisation in the tourism sector that should not be overlooked in efforts to streamline the industry.

"Most developed countries have succeeded because they have invested heavily in research. A proposal in the Bill to have TRI absorbed by KTB would hurt the sector," he said.

The same sentiments were shared by Vice Chairperson Hon. Bedzima Juma (Kisauni), Hon. Mohammed Ruweida (Lamu East) and Hon. Abdi Chome (Voi), who said TRI should instead be

The three MPs noted that they represent people from the Coastal region who heavily rely on tourism for their livelihoods. They said proposed legislation should focus on strengthening and stabilising entities in the sector to enable tourism to thrive.

"Where will the staff at TRI go if the merger is actualised? We fear that they might lose their jobs," said Hon. Ruweida, while opposing the proposed merger.

Hon. Chome emphasised the need to preserve TRI's independence and allocate adequate funding to enable it to conduct effective research for the benefit of the tourism sector.

"What informed the planned merger? TRI is underperforming because it has been starved of funding," said Hon. Mbiuki.

The Chairperson attributed TRI's challenges to the Kenya Tourism Fund (KTF), which he claimed had been selective in funding government entities under the Ministry.

"KTF has become a small god. Government entities have to kneel before it before they can disburse funds to institutions," he claimed.

Prof. Bitok told the Committee that TRI had not performed as expected because of financial constraints. He asked the Committee to intervene and ensure the institute is adequately funded.

The PS also voiced his support for strengthening TRI, noting that "the future of tourism in Kenya is in research."

He added: "I am not opposed to the proposals in the Bill, but we should not diminish the importance of research in tourism."

Hon. Mbiuki said the Committee would incorporate the submissions by stakeholders into its report and thanked them for their input.

adequately funded rather than placed under KTB.

Hon. Ghotne emphasised the need to preserve

PAC puts Principal Secretaries on notice over use of public funds



Public Accounts Committee Chairperson Hon. Tindi Mwale during the meeting.

The Public Accounts Committee has advised Principal Secretaries to ensure prudent use of taxpayers' money allocated to their respective dockets.

Committee Chairperson Hon. Tindi Mwale (Butere) said Kenyans expect value for every shilling spent by the Government and warned the PSs, who are accounting officers, against negligence in the management of public resources.

"Being accounting officers, PSs must take personal responsibility for the resources entrusted to their departments. Where loss of public funds occurs due to negligence or failure to follow the law, the responsible accounting officers will be held personally accountable," said Hon. Mwale.

The Committee Chairperson made the remarks during the examination of the Auditor-General's Reports for the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 financial years for the State Departments of Investment Promotion and Trade.

Mr. Hassan Abubakar, the PS for Investment Promotion, and his Trade counterpart, Ms. Regina Ombam, appeared separately before the Committee to respond to queries raised by the Auditor-General.

Committee Members questioned the two officials on various issues flagged in the audit reports and sought explanations on how public funds were managed in their respective departments.

Hon. Mwale said the Committee would continue scrutinising government expenditure to ensure public funds are used prudently and for their intended purposes.

"The public deserves to know that their money is being put to good use. We will continue demanding answers and ensuring that those entrusted with public resources account for every shilling," he said

> ***"Being accounting officers, PSs must take personal responsibility for the resources entrusted to their departments. Where loss of public funds occurs due to negligence or failure to follow the law, the responsible accounting officers will be held personally accountable," said Hon. Mwale.***

PIC Commercial Affairs queries IRA's Kshs. 342 million payment to law firm over legal dispute



Chairperson of the Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy Hon. David Pkosing (Pokot South) when he chaired the meeting.

The National Assembly's Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy has put the Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) on the spot over a Kshs. 342.8 million payment to a law firm following a three-year dispute.

The Committee, chaired by Hon. David Pkosing (Pokot South), raised concerns that IRA had not reached a contractual agreement with the firm when advocates began representing it in court.

Payment included Kshs. 79.8 million in accrued interest from delayed settlement of an earlier award.

IRA had procured the firm to represent it in a dispute involving a liquidated insurer that sued the Agency. However, they failed to agree on fees.

The advocate demanded Kshs. 176.1 million, based on the plaintiff claim, while IRA would pay Kshs. 875,197, based on its audited financial statements.

The court ordered payment of Kshs. 15 million from IRA's bank account and later ordered payment of the balance. By May 2023, the advocate had collected Kshs. 303.8 million through court orders, prompting IRA to seek Treasury approval to settle the liability. Approval was granted on May 29, 2023.

MPs questioned how the firm proceeded without a final contract and the role of IRA's legal department.

"My understanding is that an advocate moves to court after final instructions from the client. How did this advocate begin representing you in court without an agreement?" posed Hon. Pkosing.



Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) CEO Mr. Godfrey Kiptum (Right) when he made his presentation before the Committee.



Committee Members Hon. Esther Passaris (Nairobi County) and Hon. Kazungu Tungule (Ganze) during the meeting.

IRA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mr. Godfrey Kiptum told the Committee that due to theurgency of the matter, the said law firm had proceeded to court at the initial stages while negotiations were still ongoing but the two eventually failed to agree.

The MPs directed the IRA management to provide the Committee with a detailed report on its framework of engagement with external advocates including the prequalification requirements and all details of the officials that oversaw the deal.

Quotes of The Week



"This issue with Kenya Power, some call it *'Kenya Power and Lightning'* because they fear that whenever it rains, there will be a problem. We have discussed the monopoly for a long time. Just as His Excellency the President has been bold in addressing policies in this country, we should boldly address Kenya Power's monopoly. We have witnessed nationwide blackouts, even at our main airport, leaving people stranded. How can we market ourselves as an international destination when our international airport has no power? It will take bold steps to resolve these challenges once and for all. We must be serious as a country. We are the best in the region and cannot continue to lag behind."

-Hon. Naisula Lesuuda (Samburu West)



The space for *bodaboda* riders and lending and asset-financing arrangements for motorcycles is not well regulated. Currently, riders who have been given motorcycles are at risk, with some losing their motorcycles to lenders through repossession, while others are killed and the motorcycles disappear. Tracking systems are ineffective, making it difficult to recover stolen motorcycles. Above all, riders financed through asset financing are not assured of eventually owning the motorcycles. Even after completing payments, some are killed, their motorcycles stolen, or the assets taken away. Agencies involved in asset financing are exploiting the sector, which needs proper regulation to prevent exploitation.

- Hon. Omboko Milemba (Emuhaya)



Most of the time, when Kenyans are employed, they agree to work in any part of Kenya. Also, due to efforts to promote national cohesion and integration, it is good to experience every part of the country. Every institution normally has a transfer policy. However, it is unfortunate that such policies have been misused. They are kept in files and only used when something happens, often as punishment. For instance, teachers are transferred to remote areas, even when they have children and their salaries are limited. Transfers are acceptable, but consideration should be given to their families. Transfer policies should never be used as punishment.

- Hon. Phylis Bartoo (Moiben)



Transfers have in the past been misused by weak employers and administrators to intimidate or coerce workers, affecting performance. Employees should work in environments free from intimidation. While transfers are sometimes necessary to stabilise institutions, they should consider factors such as age, health and family circumstances. This is particularly important in teaching and police sectors. Moving an employee from Lamu to Mandera or Kisumu when their spouse works in Lamu can destabilise families and undermine fair labour practices. Transfers should never be punitive, causing distress, resignation or health challenges. Workplace harassment must be minimised. Harassment by employers or supervisors must be minimised to prevent distress.

- Hon. Julius M'anaiba (Igembe North)



It is sad that there are areas in this country where there is no electricity. Even now, some entire wards have no power, while schools and health centres lack electricity or solar power. In my constituency, Basuba Ward, where I come from, the entire ward, including schools and health centres, has no electricity. Across the constituency, we have been rationing electricity, with one town receiving power while another goes without. These are longstanding problems. Those who have been left behind continue to remain behind. We expect the Government to intervene and help us connect with others through electricity. I would like this issue addressed clearly.

- Hon. Ruweida Mohamed (Lamu East)



We continue to bury many people who die from cancer across the country every day, including children. In my constituency, we recently buried a young boy who was suffering from cancer. In another area, three members of one family have cancer. I am sure we will continue burying others who die from this disease. Cancer has become a major menace. Almost 28,000 people die from cancer every year in this country. My request is that the Ministry of Health intensifies cancer screening because many people discover the disease at the third or fourth stage, when treatment becomes difficult. If cancer is detected at stage one, it can be cured with medication, saving lives. It is the third-largest cause of death in this country."

-Hon. Abraham Kirwa (Mosop)



Guidance and counselling are imperative for effective teaching and learning in schools and the future success of children. The Government has a constitutional responsibility to protect children from harm and safeguard their well-being. Many learners face abuse, neglect and exploitation, which often remain hidden because they lack safe spaces to speak out. Establishing a mandatory counselling programme in schools would ensure that trained professionals identify warning signs early and provide appropriate support. It would also strengthen collaboration between schools and child-protection institutions, including the National Council for Children's Services. Such a programme would help create safe learning environments where children can seek help, report abuse and receive timely assistance.

- Hon. Rahab Mukami (Nyeri County)



The issue of *bodaboda* riders being exploited affects communities across the country. A major concern, especially in my constituency, is how lending companies are taking advantage of this vulnerable group. I had to intervene in one case involving a boda boda rider whose motorcycle was repossessed, only for the motorcycle to disappear completely. This matter must be addressed to ensure justice for affected riders. Lending companies that exploit wananchi should be held accountable and dealt with accordingly. There is a need for stronger oversight and protection of the riders to prevent exploitation and ensure their rights and livelihoods are protected from unfair practices.

- Hon. Joseph Cherorot (Kipkelion East)



Other countries give workers maternity leave allowances, providing financial support to women after bringing a child into the world. Here in Kenya, we are not asking the country to give women such allowances. We are simply asking that new mothers be given enough time to rest and recover after childbirth. Mothers need adequate time to stay with their babies, breastfeed, bond and engage in activities that support their children's development. That is not too much to ask. There is nothing worse than having disparities in leave days when both parents need adequate time to care for and bond with their newborn children.

- Hon. Dorice Donya (Kisii County)



We are living in different times. Our children are exposed to information at a young age. Growing up, the most we could do was read newspapers or books. Today, children are growing up in the internet age, encountering things at four that we only learned about as adults. There are challenges in our homes, where many parents have abandoned the responsibility of guiding their children, leaving that role to teachers. We are therefore raising children who acquire bad behaviour elsewhere. Young people sometimes need someone other than their parents to confide in. Schools must provide that safe space for them.

- Hon. Mark Nyamita (Uriri)

CLIQUE & CLICKS



Member of the Speakers Panel and Gilgil MP, Hon. Martha Wangari presiding over a sitting of the National Assembly on Wednesday 26th August 2026.



Samburu West MP Hon. Naisula Lesuuda speaks on the floor of the National Assembly on Wednesday 26th August 2026.



Laikipia County MP Hon. Jane Kagiri had to devise a better way of engaging her voters during a public participation exercise in the county recently.



Members of NG-CDF Committee led by the Vice-Chairperson, Hon. Kassim Tandaza (In skyblue polo-shirt), when they inspected Gedi Hilowle Mixed Day Senior School, a school entorely built using NG-CDF funds in Tarbaj, Wajir Constituency.



Standing: Chairperson of the Housing, Public Works and Urban Planning Committee speaks at an engagement with the State Department on Housing in Mombasa County.



Left: State Department on Housing PS, Mr. Charles Hinga consults Hon. Joseph Cherorot during a working retreat in Mombasa County

BUNGE MASHINANI

LAIKIPIA COUNTY

Laikipia MP Hon. Kagiri supports groups to boost economic ventures

Several men's and women's groups in Laikipia County have benefited from financial support from Laikipia County MP Hon. Jane Kagiri aimed at boosting their economic ventures and alleviating poverty.

Through funding from the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF), Hon. Kagiri donated Kshs. 50,000 each to Thome Focus Boda Boda, Thome Baraka, Thome Digital and Akichaa groups.

Other organisations that received a similar amount included Upper Manyatta Women, Pesi Widows and Baraka Self-Help Group.

"Most groups in the county have sacrificed to start business ventures that earn them money, but inadequate funding has been their major undoing. That is why I have launched a programme to support and boost their activities," said Hon. Kagiri.



Hon. Jane Kagiri presenting equipment to beneficiaries that she donated to them to boost their business ventures.

Luanda MP launches Otiato bridge, opens new government facilities

LUANDA CONSTITUENCY



Hon. Dick Maungu accompanied by local leaders cutting a plaque to official launch a new bridge in Emabungo ward during the unveiling new classrooms whose construction was funded NG-CDF funding.

Luanda MP Hon. Dick Maungu, accompanied by local leaders, launched the newly completed Otiato Bridge. The bridge connects the Abaando and Abasundi communities and is expected to ease the movement of people and goods, improve access to essential services, and strengthen social and economic ties between the two communities.

Hon. Maungu also officially opened the Assistant Chief's Office for Ebuhando Sub-location, a facility aimed at bringing government services closer to residents.

The lawmaker noted that the office will enhance security within the area by providing a more accessible administrative and security centre, while enabling residents to access government services conveniently without travelling long distances.

In the education sector, Hon. Maungu commissioned two newly constructed classrooms at Ebuhando Comprehensive School.

Hon. Jerusha brings NGAAF support closer to Essie Ward Residents

ESISE WARD, NYAMIRA COUNTY

Residents of Esise Ward in Nyamira County have benefited from community empowerment initiatives spearheaded by Nyamira County MP, Hon. Jerusha Momanyi, through the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF).

During her visit to the ward, Hon. Momanyi engaged with residents and spent time with elderly members of the community, listening to their needs and concerns. As part of the support, Hon. Momanyi donated blankets to elderly residents to help keep them warm, particularly during the cold season.

While giving her remarks, Hon. Momanyi noted that "development goes beyond infrastructure and physical projects," adding that caring for vulnerable members of society and strengthening community ties are equally important.

She reaffirmed her commitment to working with residents of Esise Ward and across Nyamira County to support initiatives that improve livelihoods, empower communities and ensure



Nyamira County MP Hon. Jerusha Momanyi addresses residents of Esise Ward during a community engagement forum held as part of NGAAF development and empowerment initiatives as she interacts with elderly residents of Esise Ward after distributing blankets.

that no one is left behind.

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Hon. Dan Wanyama speaking during a meeting with officers from the Sports Department.

Sports and Culture Committee roots for enhanced support for para-athletes ahead of upcoming games

National Assembly Departmental Committee on Sports and Culture has called for enhanced support and better coordination for athletes with disabilities in sporting activities.

The MPs raised concerns over the welfare, treatment and preparedness for para- athletes representing Kenya in International competitions which they noted that affected their performance.

The lawmakers spoke during a meeting chaired by Hon. Dan Wanyama (Webuye West) to review the State Department for Sport's budget implementation for the 2025/26 financial year.

Hon. Jackson Kosgei called for specialised training for the officers accompanying para-athletes, in collaboration with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD).

Referring to the previous preparations and the experiences of Kenyan para-athletes who travelled to India, Hon. Kosgei said the support staff were insufficiently prepared.

"Some athletes, particularly cyclists, travelled without aides to help load and manage their equipment. This contributed to some athletes missing a flight and basketball players had to step in to assist them," said Hon. Kosgei.

The Committee emphasised the need of having a dedicated officer responsible for para-athletes to ensure that their specific needs are addressed before, during and after competitions.

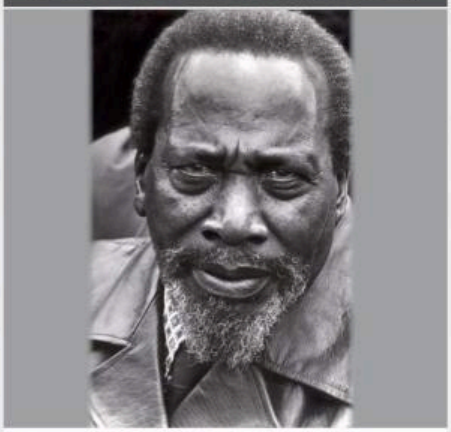
The Committee Chairperson, Hon. Wanyama, supported the intervention, saying para-athletes must be accorded priority to ensure that they do not feel neglected in the preparation and facilitation of national teams.

Officers from the Department response noted that they picked lessons from the championship adding that they were well guided by the Committee on how to facilitate players during such international competitions.



A Committee sitting with Sports Department officers to review their budget implementation.

This week in history



Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, the first Prime Minister and first President of the Republic of Kenya.

The Death of Mzee Jomo Kenyatta

In the early hours of 22nd August, 1978, Kenya's founding father and first President, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, died at State House, Mombasa.

Mzee Kenyatta, who was estimated to be in his eighties, had been experiencing declining health in the preceding years.

News of his passing was broadcast by the Voice of Kenya, triggering nationwide mourning in a country he had led since independence in 1963.

Kenya's Vice President, Daniel arap Moi, was sworn in as Acting President on the same day, marking the country's first constitutional transfer of power.

President Moi was formally sworn in as the substantive President nearly two months later, on 14th October, 1978, following his unanimous election as the head of the ruling party, KANU.

Mzee Kenyatta's body was flown to Nairobi and lay in state at Parliament Buildings for ten days, where thousands of Kenyans turned up to pay their respects.

A full-honours military state funeral was held on 31st August, 1978 and was attended by representatives of 82 nations, including 11 heads of state and government.

As the nation's founding father, Mzee Kenyatta was laid to rest in a marble mausoleum within Parliament grounds, where he remains a powerful symbol of Kenya's independence and complex political legacy.

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