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# BUNGE Weekly

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Monday, September 7th, 2026 to Monday, September 14th, 2026


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## Lawmakers root for climate-smart crops at Mombasa Show

*Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) Commissioner and Likoni MP, Hon. Mishi Mboko; National Assembly Agriculture Committee vice-chairman, Hon. Brighton Yegon; Senator Hezena Lemaletian; and Hon. (CPA) Rutto Julius Kipletting, MP, pause for a picture in the mock chamber after the media roundtable at the PSC Stand during the Mombasa A.S.K Show, 2026.*



*Members of the National Assembly during a sitting.*

**The National Assembly has approved the National Infrastructure Fund Investment Policy,** paving the way for the Fund to finance commercially viable infrastructure projects while strengthening safeguards against financial and governance risks.

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Plenary

# MPs greenlight Infrastructure Fund Policy to tighten investment safeguards



H.E President William Ruto launching the National Infrastructure Fund on March 9, 2026.

The National Assembly has approved the National Infrastructure Fund Investment Policy, paving the way for the Fund to finance commercially viable infrastructure projects while strengthening safeguards against financial and governance risks.

The House adopted Sessional Paper No. 7 of 2026 after the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning recommended sweeping amendments to the policy to establish clearer investment rules and accountability mechanisms.

Moving the Motion, Committee Chairperson Hon. Kuria Kimani said the amendments were necessary to ensure the Fund operates within a transparent, prudent and accountable framework.

Under the approved framework, projects seeking financing will be subjected to stricter assessments, including commercial viability, technical readiness, user demand and risk management.

The policy requires proposed projects to demonstrate the ability and willingness of intended users to pay for services, helping determine whether projects can generate sustainable revenues and remain financially viable.

The Fund's investment decisions will also be required to achieve a positive risk-adjusted return on equity, with seven per cent set as the minimum threshold rather than its target commercial return.

The House also aligned the policy's validity and review period with the five-year period prescribed under the National Infrastructure Fund Act, while allowing the Board to adjust sectoral and single-project exposure limits based on economic impact, liquidity requirements, economies of scale and inter-sectoral risks.

Supporting the policy, MPs said the Fund could provide an alternative mechanism for financing critical infrastructure while reducing pressure on conventional public borrowing.

Hon. Irene Mayaka said the framework would promote commercial discipline and direct investment towards priority areas including transport, energy and water infrastructure.

Hon. Beatrice Elachi said the policy would also strengthen Parliament's oversight of major infrastructure investments, while urging consideration of employment, local manufacturing, technology, SMEs and agriculture.

The policy is expected to guide the identification, appraisal, financing and monitoring of infrastructure investments and ensure that resources allocated to the Fund are channeled towards projects capable of delivering sustainable economic and social benefits.

The National Infrastructure Fund was established under the National Infrastructure Fund Act, 2026, with the Investment Policy providing the framework for its operationalisation.

# PAC queries millions spent on unutilised Youth Empowerment Centers



Public Accounts Committee, chairperson Hon. Tindi Mwale (Butere) at the meeting.

The National Assembly Public Accounts Committee, chaired by Hon. Tindi Mwale (Butere), has questioned the expenditure of millions of shillings on Youth Empowerment Centres that remain non-operational.

The issue emerged as the Committee examined the Auditor-General's reports for the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 financial years on the State Department for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports.

Principal Secretary Fikirini Jacobs, accompanied by officials from the State Department, appeared before the Committee and responded to concerns raised by Members over the status and utilisation of the centres.

According to the Auditor-General's report, only 156 of the planned 290 Youth Empowerment Centres had been constructed. However, most of the completed centres remain without staff and operational programmes.

Hon. Mwale led Members in questioning whether the country was getting value for money by constructing more centres before operationalising those already completed.

"Will Kenyans really get value for money if finances are pumped into the construction of more youth centres? Isn't it illogical to continue with the construction of more centres without first operationalising the existing ones?" posed Hon. Mwale.

Committee Members Hon. Mary Emaase (Teso South), Hon. Otiende Amollo (Rarieda) and Hon. Nabii Nabwera (Lugari) also raised concerns over the continued underfunding of the programme.

The PS attributed the challenges to funding constraints and understaffing. He informed the Committee that 25 centres had been operationalised through a partnership with the Ministry of ICT to establish ICT hubs.

Hon. Mwale directed the PS to submit a comprehensive status report on all Youth Empowerment Centres across the country for further review by the Committee.



Committee Member Hon. Mary Emaase (Teso South), making a point at the session.

# Mohamed Ali Girls Secondary School stage mock Parliamentary session at ASK Show

Students from Mohamed Ali Girls Secondary School staged a mock plenary session at the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) stand on Friday, September 4, 2026, during the just concluded Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Show in Mombasa, providing them with practical experience of how Parliament conducts its business.

The learners were first guided through a practical training session by the Parliamentary Outreach Team on the procedures and practices of a plenary sitting, before applying their knowledge in a mock session modelled on Senate proceedings.



*Students from Mishi Mboko High School demonstrates a Mock Speaker's Procession to the Mock Chamber at the PSC Stand during the Mombasa A.S. K Show.*

The students debated the motion "Climate-smart agriculture is the key to food security and sustainable growth in Kenya" in line with this year's ASK Show theme. Both the proposing and opposing sides presented compelling arguments, demonstrating confidence, knowledge and strong debating skills.

PSC Commissioner Hon. Mishi Mboko, who followed the proceedings from the stand, applauded the students for their impressive performance and encouraged them to remain focused on their education and leadership aspirations.

"Girls, you have made me proud. You have never been in Parliament, yet the way you have debated makes it seem as if you are Members of Parliament. Who knows? This might be your gateway to becoming Members of Parliament in the future," said Mboko.

She urged the students to make education a priority, calling it the foundation of personal and professional success.

"Put your best foot forward in education. Education is your foundation and the key to your success. At least you are on the right path. I am here because I made education my priority," she added.

Drawing inspiration from Deputy Speaker Hon. Gladys Boss and other women parliamentarians, Hon. Mboko challenged the girls to believe in their abilities and to pursue leadership despite societal expectations and barriers.

She also stressed the importance of research, collaboration, and working with professionals from different fields to advance their education and future careers.

# Legislators champion for climate-smart farming, markets at Mombasa Show



*Member of the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) and Likoni MP, Hon. Mishi Mboko, addressing the public in the mock chamber during the media roundtable at the PSC Stand during the Mombasa A.S.K Show, 2026.*

Members of Parliament have called for stronger policy support for climate-resilient crops, irrigation, markets and value addition as Parliament stepped up its public engagement at the 2026 Mombasa International Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Show.

The MPs and journalists participated in a live Members' and Media Roundtable at Parliament's stand at the Mkomani Showground, with discussions centred on climate-smart agriculture, food security, markets and legislation.

The forum brought together Members of the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, and the Committee on Parliamentary Broadcasting and Library Services. Citizen TV editor Francis Mtalaki moderated the forum, which was broadcast live across various media platforms and Parliament's social media pages.

Parliamentary Service Commission Commissioner and Likoni MP, Hon. Mishi Mboko, championed for Achiote, locally known as Mrangi, a drought-resistant crop cultivated in Kwale and Lamu counties.

"Achiote is a drought-resistant, pest-free crop already cultivated in Kwale and Lamu. Recognising it as a scheduled crop will give our farmers access to government support, financing and markets, while creating new opportunities for value addition and exports," she said.

Her remarks centred on the Crops (Amendment) Bill, 2023, sponsored by Hon. Tandaza Kassim and currently before the Senate Agriculture Committee for public participation. The Bill seeks to include Achiote in the First Schedule to the Crops Act, 2013.

National Assembly Agriculture Committee Vice-Chairman Hon. Brighton Yegon warned that drought and shifting weather patterns were increasingly threatening food production, even in traditionally food-secure areas.

"Smallholder farmers produce about 70 per cent of the country's food and rely largely on rain-fed agriculture," said Hon. Yegon, calling for greater investment in irrigation.

Senator Hezena Lemaletian said Parliament must promote policies to help farmers adapt to climate change, while Hon. Julius Kipletting Rutto urged greater investment in markets, value addition and agricultural infrastructure.

"Our farmers should not only be supported in production; they must also be assured of markets where they can earn a decent return on their investment. We need to strengthen value chains, reduce post-harvest losses, and open both regional and international markets for Kenyan produce," Rutto said.

The engagement also underscored the importance of Parliament maintaining direct links with citizens.

"Parliament belongs to the people. When citizens come to us with their concerns, petitions and ideas, our responsibility is to listen," said Hon. Mboko.

The engagement included mock parliamentary proceedings with students. Parliament's exhibition won first place in Best Stand Promoting National Cohesion and Integration Development and third place in Best Government Social Functions Stand.

# House backs reforms to strengthen, govern Trusts and Trustees

The National Assembly has passed the Trust Administration Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 29 of 2026) after approving a series of amendments aimed at strengthening the legal framework governing the creation, registration, management and investment of trusts in Kenya.

The Bill, sponsored by the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, Hon. George Murugara, was with the amendments passed on August 27, 2026.



*The National Assembly in session.*

The amendments expand the application of the proposed law to trusts registered or incorporated under the Act, trusts created by court orders and those established under other written laws. The changes also clarify that the legislation will not invalidate trusts or fiduciary obligations arising under customary law, equity, wills or court orders.

MPs approved provisions providing greater clarity on how trusts are created, including requirements relating to identifiable property, beneficiaries or lawful purposes, and the appointment of trustees.

The House also approved a framework distinguishing between the validity, registration and enforceability of written trusts. While written trusts will be required to be registered or incorporated, a person claiming an interest in an unregistered written trust will retain the right to approach the court for recognition and enforcement.

The amendments also saw the removal of restrictions that could limit charitable trusts from generating income, allowing them greater scope to become self-reliant while applying income towards their charitable objectives.

The House further strengthened safeguards around the registration and incorporation of trusts, providing that trusts formed for unlawful purposes may be refused registration or incorporation. The amendments also remove vetting as a prerequisite and replace subjective assessments with objective and verifiable criteria, giving applicants an opportunity to be heard or have their applications regularised.

Trustees will also be permitted to invest trust assets authorised by the trust deed, provided investments are prudent, serve the interests of the trust, take account of liquidity and risk, and do not create actual or potential conflicts of interest. The trustees will be required to undertake appropriate legal and financial due diligence and periodically review investments.

The amendments further require trustees exercising powers over trust property to comply with the Trust Administration Act and other written laws, including where property is sold, leased or trust deeds are amended.

The Bill also provides additional safeguards for trustees, including limiting liability for acts or omissions committed by a trustee in default and providing clearer procedures for the appointment of substitute or additional trustees.

# Health Committee urges more Kenyans to pay SHA contributions as registration hits 32 million



*Committee on Health chairperson Hon. Dr. James Nyikal during the meeting with the Ministry of Health officials.*

Committee on Health has commended the Social Health Authority (SHA) for progress in expanding health coverage and advancing the Government's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) agenda.

The Committee, chaired by Hon. Dr. James Nyikal (Seme), noted that 32 million Kenyans had registered with SHA, showing progress in expanding access to healthcare.

The remarks were made during a joint retreat involving the Committee, SHA and the Digital Health Agency (DHA) to review UHC implementation and strengthen health-sector reforms.

SHA Chief Executive Officer Dr. Mercy Mwangangi told the Committee that, as of July 31, 2026, a total of 32,180,494 Kenyans had registered with SHA, representing 67.7 per cent of the national population.

Members welcomed the figures but urged SHA to convert enrolment into active membership. Currently, about five million registered members are actively contributing to the scheme.

Dr. Nyikal said registration alone was not enough and called for greater efforts to ensure more Kenyans make regular contributions.

Hon. Dr. Robert Pukose (Endebess), Prof. Guyo Jaldesa (Moyale), Hon. Joshua Oroni (Kisumu Central), Martin Owino (Ndhiwa) and Hon. Julius Sunkuli (Kilgoris) called for public engagement and innovative approaches to improve contributions.

Dr. Pukose urged SHA to work closely with Members of Parliament, county governments and grassroots leaders to sensitise Kenyans on the

Dr. Mwangangi said SHA was developing flexible contribution arrangements to accommodate households with irregular and seasonal incomes. She added that the Authority was following up with members whose coverage had become inactive to improve retention and continuity of healthcare services.

The Committee stressed the need for contribution mechanisms that reflect income patterns.

Members called for intensified registration in counties with low enrolment. SHA identified Turkana, Garissa, Wajir, Marsabit, Mandera, Tana River, Isiolo, Narok, West Pokot and Trans Nzoia among counties with the lowest registration levels.



*Hon. Prof. Jaldesa Guyo in a pensive mood during the Committee retreat with Ministry of Health officials.*

Nyikal (2011), noted that 32 million Kenyans

importance of maintaining membership.

# PSC Commissioners receive ASK show Chief Guest CS Mutahi Kagwe at Parliamentary Service Commission stand



*ASK Show Chief Guest Hon. Mutahi Kagwe engages pupils who staged a mock Parliamentary Chamber at the PSC stand during the just concluded Show.*

Parliamentary Service Commissioners, led by Senator Wahome Wamatinga, Chairperson of the Commission Committee on Information and Public Communication, received Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe at the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) stand during the ongoing Mombasa Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Show.

CS Kagwe, who previously served as the Mukurweini MP and Nyeri Senator, expressed his delight at returning to Parliament and reconnecting with former colleagues. His visit also offered an opportunity to engage with members of the public and schoolchildren visiting the exhibition.

Senator Wamatinga welcomed the Cabinet Secretary, noting that Kagwe had been his predecessor as Senator for Nyeri County before Kagwe's appointment to the Cabinet.

As Chairperson of the Commission Committee on Information and Public Communication, Senator Wamatinga underscored the importance of ensuring that Parliament continues to strengthen public communication and civic engagement.

"Parliament belongs to the people, and it is our responsibility to ensure that information about its work, processes and mandate reaches citizens accurately and effectively. The ASK Show provides us with an important platform to bring Parliament closer to the people," said Wamatinga.

Commissioner Mishi Mboko and Likoni MP said that public exhibitions are critical to promoting civic awareness, particularly among young people.

"When citizens understand how Parliament works, they are better placed to participate meaningfully in its processes and in public discourse," said Mboko.

During his tour, CS Kagwe interacted with pupils from various schools and tested their knowledge of parliamentary procedures following lessons delivered by the Parliamentary Outreach Team.

The visit coincided with the ASK Show's focus on the theme "Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Growth," highlighting the need for innovation, partnerships and knowledge-sharing to advance sustainable agriculture.

The PSC Stand continues to offer members of the public the opportunity to learn about Parliament's work, legislative processes, services, and avenues for public participation.

The Parliamentary delegation that met the Cabinet Secretary included Commissioner Johnson Muthama; Hon. Brighton Yegon, Vice-Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock; Hon. Julius Rutto, a Member of the Parliamentary Broadcasting and Library Committee; and Senator Hezena Lemaletian.

# Treasury rules out immediate merger of legacy Pension Scheme with Public Service Superannuation Scheme



*Session Chairperson Hon. Edith Nyenze seeks a clarification from the Pensions Secretary Mr. Alfred Kagika.*

The National Treasury has ruled out the immediate amalgamation of the legacy Defined Benefit (DB) pension scheme with the Public Service Superannuation Scheme (PSSS), saying the two arrangements are fundamentally different and require careful policy and financial consideration.

Pensions Secretary Alfred Kagika told the Public Petitions Committee that merging the schemes would require critical decisions on existing accrued liabilities under the DB arrangement, assets held under the PSSS, historical liabilities, valuation and transfer of assets and liabilities, as well as the protection of individual PSSS member accounts.

He said the Government would also have to determine future contribution rates, benefit entitlements and the fiscal implications of such a merger.

"Amalgamation without a clear financing mechanism could result in the Government assuming both the legacy unfunded liabilities and additional obligations associated with the contributory scheme, potentially increasing rather than reducing fiscal pressure," Kagika said.

Kagika further told the Committee that the Pensions Department had undertaken a series of reforms aimed at improving the timeliness, accuracy and integrity of pension payments.

The reforms include automation of pension processing, digitisation of pension records, implementation of the electronic Pension Management Information System (ePMIS), electronic processing of claims, beneficiary validation, payroll reconciliation and integration with relevant Government databases.

Committee Member Hon. Suzanne Kiamba sought an explanation on measures being taken to shorten the waiting period for retirees to receive their pension benefits.

Kagika said the new system would allow Ministries, Departments and Agencies to begin preparing retirement dossiers during the nine-month retirement notice period.

Under the arrangement, he said, the relevant agencies would have seven days after retirement to electronically transmit the completed pension file to the National Treasury.

"Upon receipt, as we are starting off, we have given ourselves two payroll cycles, which is 60 calendar days," he said.

Session Chairperson Hon. Edith Nyenze called for greater public sensitisation on pension claim procedures and wider access to electronic pension services.

Kagika said the Treasury would intensify outreach and sensitisation, noting that pensioners would be able to access the electronic pension system through eCitizen and receive assistance at Huduma Centres.

"We will endeavour to do more outreach and sensitisation activities, and with the electronic system, pensioners will be logging into the system through eCitizen. With our presence in all the Huduma Centres, this will be a great avenue to educate and serve our pensioners," he said.

The Treasury was responding to Public Petition No. 8 of 2026 submitted by members of the Kenya National Association of Public Service Pensioners in Kericho, representing former civil servants and retirees from across the country.



*A sitting of the Public Petitions Committee with the National Treasury as they responded to Public Petition No. 8 of 2026*

# Environment Committee probes rising lake levels, seeks urgent mitigation ahead of El Niño rains

Members the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining have called on the government to establishment urgent flood mitigatiom measures to avert possible catastrophes caused by extreme water levels resulting from projected long rains.

Led by Chairperson Hon. (Eng.) Vincent Musyoka, MP (Mwala), the Committee last Tuesday held a series of meetings with the relevant State Departments to understand the severity of the rising water levels across the Country's lakes, and to ascertain the government's levels of preparedness to handle the same.

"Are there feasible plans to mitigate this situation, and are they backed by sustainable resources?" posed Hon. Musyoka.

Speaking during the first session with the Principal Secretary in the State Department of Environment Dr. Eng. Festus Ng'eno and the Principal Secretary of Forestry Ms. Sylvia Museiya, the MPs also demanded to know if there are established modalities for compensation of persons affected by the reported rising water levels of Kenyan lakes.

"These overflowing waters have already displaced some communities, and there exist human-wildlife conflicts with aquatic animals occupying private land," said Hon. Charles Kamuren, the Committee Vice- Chairperson.

Citing the projected long-rains by the Meteorological Department as a cause for alarm, the MPs demanded for all relevant Ministries and State Agencies to urgently set out both short and long-term meaures to deal with the imminent floods.



*Environment Committee Chairperson Hon. (Eng.) Vincent Musyoka speaking during the meeting on Tuesday, September 1st in Machakos County, next to him is Vice Chairperson Hon. Charles Kamuren.*

"Its automatic that with the el-nino rains expected, these lakes' waters are likely to spill even further if no urgent mitigation measures are put in place," said Hon. Charity Kathambi.

"What are the current plans in place to avert these public fears, and how soon should we expect these remedies to take off without having to deal with catastrophes," posed Hon. Beatrice Kemei.

The PS for Roads Eng. Joseph Mbugua and PS for Water and Sanitation Mr. Julius Korir told the Committee that plans are underway to ensure that the country's road networks and drainage systems are sufficiently redesigned to be able to handle the projected rains.

The Committee took the PS for Water and Sanitation Mr. Korir to task to explain strategies for ensuring riparian land parcels are secured from encroachers, who stand highest risks of being swept away by overflowing waters.

"There are several Kenyans still residing on riparian land, and these fast-rising water levels pose a major threat to their livelihoods," said Hon. Gertrude Mbeyu. "Can the government wnsire that we do not lose any more lives in the coming weeks for avoidable reasons," she urged.

# Rising public debt threatens private sector growth, stakeholders warn

The Committee on Public Debt and Privatisation, chaired by Hon. Abdi Shurie (Mbalambala), held its inaugural multisectoral forum on public debt management, to address the "crowding out" effect of rising public debt on private sector growth.

The forum, organized in partnership with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), provided a structured platform for engagement between Parliament and the private sector on

Kenya's public debt policy and its wider economic implications, highlighting a growing crisis where government domestic borrowing is increasingly depriving businesses of essential credit.

While opening the session, the Chairperson emphasized the critical need for private sector insights to help steer the country's fiscal policy.

"Your input will be highly appreciated and I'm sure it will go a long way in addressing the challenges we face in dealing with

matters of public debt," Hon. Shurie stated.

Discussions focused on public debt sustainability, private-sector growth and economic productivity, led by the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA); public debt, access to credit and the competitiveness of Kenya's manufacturing sector, led by the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM); and domestic borrowing and its implications for private-sector credit, investment and financial-sector stability, led by the Kenya Bankers Association (KBA), among other key issues.

CPA Arnold Wangila, Finance Manager at the Kenya Bankers Association, explained the banking sector's position: "As government appetite for local borrowing goes up, then banks being businesses... you put your money there. We've seen a crowding out effect where banks then put most of their investments to government through purchase of government papers as compared to onward lending to the normal customer."

The KBA revealed that bank investments in government securities grew by 58 percent between June 2024 and May 2026, while lending to the private sector grew by only 11 percent in the same period.

This shift has raised concerns about sovereign risk exposure, with nearly 30 percent of the banking sector's total assets now tied to a single entity: the government.

Stakeholders from the manufacturing and general private sectors expressed alarm over the long-term impact of these trends.

The Kenya Association of Manufacturers noted that the sector's contribution to GDP has shrunk from 11.8 percent in 2011 to 7.1 percent today, largely due to high production costs, energy prices, and a lack of access to credit.

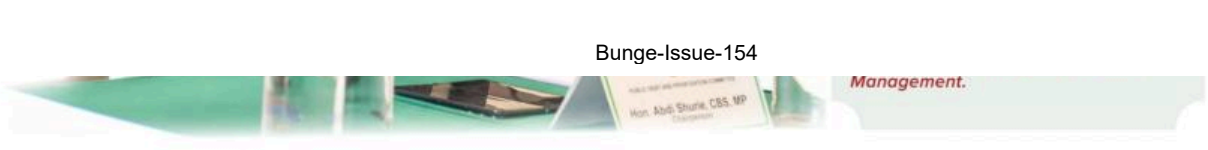
Meanwhile, KEPSA representatives urged the government to shift toward Public-Private Partnerships and to stabilize the tax regime to attract investors.

The forum also addressed the lack of transparency in debt management with participants calling for the automation of the Public Debt Management office to allow citizens and investors to track debt levels in real-time.

"It is really concerning when as a country we have to form a Committee to track our debt, you just need to have a website where you click on it and you see the public debt," Hon. Zachary Kwenya (Kinangop) noted, highlighting the inefficiencies of the current manual system.



*The Chairperson of the Committee on Public Debt and Privatisation Hon. Abdi Shurie during a meeting with stakeholders on Public Debt*


Hon. Abdi Shurie, CBS, MP
Management.

# MPs put Treasury on the spot over Equalisation Fund delays



Tiaty MP Hon. William Kamket lifts his hand to ask a question in the National Assembly.

Members of the National Assembly have put the National Treasury on the spot over delays in disbursing and implementing projects under the Equalisation Fund.

MPs from marginalised counties demanded faster release of funds. They also called for clearer accountability for projects meant to improve basic services.

The concerns were raised by Hon. William Kamket (Tiaty) and Hon. Naisula Lesuuda (Samburu West).

They spoke after Treasury Cabinet Secretary Hon. John Mbadi disclosed that cumulative receipts into the Fund stood at Sh22.42 billion.

This is against constitutional entitlements of Sh90.34 billion. The outstanding arrears therefore stand at Sh67.92 billion.

The arrears account for 75.2 per cent of the total entitlement, according to a Treasury response tabled in the National Assembly.

Hon. Kamket sought details on the Fund's implementation for the years ending June 2023 and 2024. He focused on Baringo County.

He wanted details on allocations, disbursements and the status of projects.

Mbadi said Sh595.03 million was appropriated for Equalisation Fund projects in Baringo under the 2023 Appropriation Act.

The allocation covered 90 marginalised areas across 15 wards and four constituencies.

However, only Sh174.15 million had been requisitioned and transferred to Baringo County's Special Purpose Account.

This represented an absorption rate of 29 per cent as of June 30, 2026.

Of the 150 project proposals submitted, 144 had been approved.

Treasury reported that 46 projects were between 90 and 100 per cent complete. Another 88 projects were below 50 per cent completion.

Mbadi attributed the slow absorption mainly to delays by the county in submitting project proposals and requisitions.

Hon. Lesuuda sought a county-by-county account of Equalisation Fund arrears and disbursements.

She also questioned whether the Fund had achieved its constitutional purpose.

She sought an explanation for the increase in beneficiaries from the initial 14 counties to 34.

Treasury said Sh11.8 billion was appropriated under the 2018 Equalisation Fund Appropriation Act for 360 projects in the original 14 counties. Of this, Sh10.98 billion was transferred to implementing ministries, departments and agencies.



Samburu West MP Hon Naisula Lesuuda speaks in the National Assembly.

# Mtwapa residents call for Labour Committee's action to improve EPZ workers' conditions



The Chairperson for the Committee on Labour Hon. Ken Chonga addressing residents of Mtwapa, Kilifi County, alongside Members of the Committee during a public engagement on the working conditions of EPZ workers.

Residents of Mtwapa Municipality in Kilifi County have called on the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Labour to intervene on Labour Laws compliance by Export Processing Zones (EPZ's) operating in Mtwapa.

Speaking during an engagement with the Committee, residents decried poor salaries, long working hours, lack of annual leave, short-term contracts, lack of access to trade unions & labour rights, discrimination, unfair dismissal of pregnant mothers and inadequate facilities for expectant mothers.

The Committee's intervention arises from a petition by residents, through their area MP, on challenges facing EPZ workers and the local community.

Despite Mtwapa being conferred municipal status in November 2023, remuneration continues to be determined under the same geographical wage classification that applies to 'other towns', whose minimum salary for a general labourer is Ksh. 9,268 instead of Ksh. 16,650 that is applicable to workers in other municipalities.

While engaging residents, the Committee Chairperson and Kilifi South MP. Hon. Ken Chonga attributed some of the challenges facing workers to inadequate enforcement of Labour Laws by Labour Officers.

"During the Committee visit to one of the companies, we noted that a Labour Officer had visited even the previous day, yet workers are engaged for more than eight working hours and still taking home a salary of about Ksh. 8,000," said Hon. Chonga.

Adding her voice, Hon. Catherine Wambilianga emphasized the responsibility of employers in providing a conducive working environment and upholding workers rights.

"70 per cent of jobs are supposed to be reserved for the residents and lactating mothers should have a safe place for them to breastfeed their children and should have a flexible working environment," Hon. Wambilianga said.

The lawmakers reiterated their commitment to ensuring full compliance of Labour Laws and promoting a decent work environment for workers in Mtwapa and other municipalities across the country.



Members of the Labour Committee in a meeting with the management of Umoja Shoe Company Ltd

# Lawmakers hail impact of NG-CDF projects in Wajir

The National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) Committee has lauded the impact of projects funded through the kitty in Wajir County, saying they have helped improve access to education and other essential services in the marginalised region.

The committee, led by its Vice-Chairperson and Matuga MP Hon. Kassim Tandaza, last week inspected schools, ICT digital hubs, laboratories, a teachers' training college and other development projects funded through the NG-CDF.

"The projects we have inspected today are exceptional. They are proof that the Fund has been well utilised, but above all, it is encouraging to see the positive impact of these projects on the local communities," Hon. Tandaza said.

At Gedi Hilowle Mixed Senior School, the Committee was informed that the institution was established from scratch through NG-CDF funding and has provided an opportunity for children who previously had to trek up to 10 kilometres in search of education.



*Members inspect a classroom build using NG-CDF kitty in Wajir East Constituency.*

"The classrooms, administration block, laboratory, toilets, boreholes — literally everything in this school — has been constructed using the NG-CDF. It is encouraging to see the good work being achieved through the Fund and its impact on the community," Hon. Tandaza said.




*NG-CDF Committee Members led by the Vice-Chairperson, Hon. Kassim Tandaza, inspects Tarbaj Teachers Training College in Tarbaj Constituency, Wajir County, during the inspection visit.*

He said improved access to schools had contributed to a reduction in dropout rates and challenged the perception that residents of the region were poorly educated.

"The challenges of access to learning institutions have been addressed adequately by NG-CDF," he said.

Local MPs praised the Fund for helping bridge development gaps in marginalised areas while expanding access to education and other essential services.

"This Fund is everything for learners from this region. They depend on it entirely to support their education. Our people are feeling the impact of the Fund and, if only we could get more allocation, we can achieve a lot more," Tarbaj MP Hussein Bare said.

However, the Committee was informed of challenges affecting the implementation of some NG-CDF projects, particularly ICT digital hubs.

Fund managers said the lack of electricity in parts of the region was hampering the rollout and operation of the facilities.

The Committee urged managers to explore alternative sources of power, including solar energy, to ensure residents of the region benefit from digital services and are not left behind in the country's digital transformation.

# PIC Education raises alarm over textbook distribution, school debts and bank loans



*Luanda MP Hon. Dick Maungu, who chairs the National Assembly Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education addressing the press after an inspection visit. He is flanked by Committee Members.*

The National Assembly Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education has raised concerns over the management of finances and learning resources in national schools, including uneven textbook distribution, long-standing fee arrears, school borrowing and procurement practices.

The committee, chaired by Luanda MP Hon. Dick Maungu, said some national schools had received hundreds of textbooks beyond their requirements while others, particularly in marginalised areas, continued to experience shortages.

The concerns emerged as the Committee examined Auditor General's reports for the 2020/2021 to 2024/25 financial years for several national schools during its retreat in Kisumu.

Speaking to journalists after Thursday's proceedings, Hon. Maungu said the Committee had identified discrepancies in the distribution of learning materials.

"We have seen a school that received 400 and 506 extra books," Hon. Maungu said.

The Committee plans to summon the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) to explain how textbooks are allocated and establish whether current enrolment data is being used.

"We expect KICD to have the right data to ensure that the books supplied are enough for the students who are there, so that those in far-flung areas in Mandera, Turkana and other places get what is supposed to be theirs," he said.

The MPs also raised concern over millions of shillings in outstanding school fees, with some arrears dating back to 2010.

Hon. Maungu said school heads faced a dilemma in recovering the debts while complying with Government directives against withholding students' certificates over unpaid fees.

He proposed that schools prepare schedules of long-standing arrears and submit them to the Ministry of Education for consideration, noting that some receivables resulted from delayed capitation.

The Committee also opposed schools obtaining commercial bank loans without the necessary approvals.

Hon. Maungu cited Ng'iya Girls High School, which had previously secured a loan of about Sh50 million for a project estimated at Sh150 million. Although the loan had reportedly been cleared, he said schools should not borrow without approval from the Ministry of Education and the National Treasury.

"If you allow principals to keep borrowing money left, right and centre, we shall enter into a total mess," he said.

The Committee further questioned the failure by some national schools to employ qualified procurement officers, despite being public institutions subject to the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act.

"It is important that a national school has a head of procurement who can procure and follow what is supposed to be done," Hon.Maungu said.

The Committee said the findings would form part of a report to Parliament with recommendations to strengthen financial management and accountability in schools.

Hon. Maungu said the exercise marked a new level of parliamentary scrutiny of secondary schools, beginning with about 120 to 130 national schools classified as C1 institutions before moving to other categories.

## Quotes of The Week



We have different types of cancer, and what is common in Kisii may not be common in North Eastern. We must finance the National Cancer Institute of Kenya (NIC-Kenya) to conduct proper surveys on cancer types and their possible causes across regions. As leaders, we should not engage in general talk but act for the welfare of our people. The Nairobi and Eldoret Cancer Registries are funded by foreigners. As a country and responsible Parliament, we must take charge by adequately financing our institutions to provide reliable data. Our regional scancer centres are poorly managed, with few trained doctors, inadequate consumables and maintenance challenges.

**- Hon. (Dr) Robert Pukose (Endebess)**



I support the proposal to introduce guidance and counselling programmes in primary and secondary schools. We must also integrate health education into school subjects. Many students face serious challenges, including drug abuse, negative social media influence, family breakdown and poverty. These challenges can cause stress and affect their education and wellbeing. Guidance and counselling can help students make informed decisions, choose subjects wisely and identify suitable careers. It can also support students dealing with depression, suicidal thoughts, conflict and addiction. Counselling should extend beyond schools. Government institutions, including the military and police, also need such services to address challenges and prevent serious incidents.

**- Hon. Mishi Mboko (Likoni)**



Asset financing companies collude with their technicians, who install security gadgets on motorcycles and later use them to track and repossess the motorcycles. In some cases, the technicians allegedly help locate and steal the motorcycles before removing the security devices, making the motorcycles impossible to trace. This has impoverished many *bodaboda* riders. Even when borrowers are still making payments, companies repossess motorcycles after substantial amounts have already been paid, sometimes when only a small balance remains. Worse, after removing the security gadgets, the companies continue demanding payment from the owners, despite the motorcycles having insurance coverage that should address such losses.

**- Hon. Raphael Wanjala (Budalang'i)**



The lives we live today are different from those experienced by our parents and grandparents. Modern students face serious challenges that we did not experience when we were young. Our children are the leaders of tomorrow. We must ensure that these future leaders have proper support systems. We can help them by providing strong guidance and counselling in schools. As working parents, we leave home early and return in the evening. We do not spend enough time with our children. They spend many hours of their childhood in school. As the Swahili saying goes, *"Samaki mkunje angali mbichi."* We must guide children while they are young.

**- Hon. Amina Mnyazi (Malindi)**



As we have always said, education is not a competition. Education is aimed at imparting knowledge and preparing young people to fit into society and become productive citizens who will participate in building the nation during their adulthood. Today, most schools have been converted into business enterprises. Schools focus on how much cereals can be supplied and how much fees can be collected. As a result, Boards of Management focus more on financial matters. If we put a cap on this, we will take education back to what it is supposed to be, where teachers and Boards of Management focus on educating the child.

**- Hon. Clive Gisairo (Kitutu Masaba)**



A counselling programme in primary and secondary schools will help our young people cope with the many challenges and influences they face today. Sometimes, they are unable to manage themselves and their issues. Mandatory counselling in all schools will help nurture and mould our young people into better leaders for tomorrow and even today. Counselling will also improve their mental health. Due to increasing stress, many young people are developing mental health challenges. This affects adults and couples as well. Counselling in schools will help young people cope with their situations, make better decisions, and improve their academic performance.

**- Hon. Naomi Waqo (Marsabit County)**



Food security is a matter of national interest, just like any other security matter. Without food, there can never be stability in the country. It is as serious as the threat of aggression and attacks from outsiders. We cannot give food security a second thought, especially now that the country is facing a ravaging drought. Parts of what we call the *"bread basket"* are already experiencing serious challenges. We are anticipating crop failure. This is compounded by the yellow-yellow weed, which is attacking cereals, especially maize. There can be no shortcuts. Whether there is money or not, the Government must treat this as a priority.

**- Hon. Julius Rutto (Kesses)**



If we have a structured way of ensuring that student admission to schools in various categories is capped based on the number of students they can accommodate, we will ensure that students are managed better in terms of learning and safety. The learning environment will also improve. Even the teacher-student ratio will become more manageable. It does not make sense for a school to have too many streams. A class teacher may not even know the names of most students because they are too many. As a result, there will be no meaningful personal relationship between students and teachers.

**-Hon. Irene Mayaka (Nominated)**



Currently, guidance and counselling exists in rudimentary form, with teachers acting as double agents. However, teachers are not fully skilled or equipped to meet today's counselling demands. Ideally, schools need dedicated psychological counsellors without teaching responsibilities. This would enhance student trust through strict confidentiality and reduce the stigma associated with being referred to a counselling teacher. The programme should be structured universally for preventive counselling, with intensive support for students at risk and specialised interventions for those with cognitive behavioural disorders, including psychiatrists. Kenya already has 7,000 to 9,000 qualified counsellors. Therefore, schools need an independent professional counselling service.

**- Hon. Duncan Mathenge (Nyeri Town)**



In this country, the capacity of schools to accommodate students is known. However, we feel inadequate when students, including our children, seek admission to local schools. That is why we crave schools with good names and overcrowd them. These schools are not overcrowded by locals. It is the rich who want their children in schools such as Alliance High School, Nairobi School and Lenana School. They pressure principals to admit more students than facilities can accommodate. Overstretched facilities compromise learners' safety, especially during emergencies. We should not wait for another calamity before asking what happened. Overcrowded schools also cause teacher burnout.

**- Hon. Dorothy Muthoni (Nominated)**

## CLIQUE & CLICKS



PSC Commissioner, Sen. Wahome Wamatinga (right), receives CS Mutahi Kagwe, when he visited the PSC stand at the just concluded ASK show in Mombasa County.




Likoni MP and PSC Commissioner Hon. Mishi Mboko (right), receives CS Mutahi Kagwe, the Chief Guest at the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) show in Mkomani Mombasa, when he visited the PSC stand.



Likoni MP and Commissioner Hon. Mishi Mboko, joins students from Mohamed Ali Girls Secondary School after a mock debate session during the ASK show.



Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture Hon. Mutahi Kagwe (centre) enjoys a light moment with PSC Commissioners Sen. Wahome Wamatinga (3rd right) and Hon. Johnston Muthama (second right) as Kesses MP, Hon. Julius Rutto (right) and Nominated Sen. Hezena Lemaletian (2nd left) look on. CS Mutahi was visiting the PSC stand as the Mombasa ASK show.



Students from Mohamed Ali Girls Secondary School pose with their awards after staging a mock plenary session at the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) stand during the ASK show.




Sergeants-at-Arms explain to pupils who visited the PSC stand in the Mombasa ASK, the role of the Mace as a symbol of authority in the Chamber.

BUNGE MASHINANI

TURKANA CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY

# New modern dormitory set to ease boarding challenges at Lomil Girls Secondary School

Students at Lomil Girls Secondary School in Turkana Central Constituency will no longer be subjected to hardship due to inadequate boarding facilities.

This follows the construction of a modern dormitory by the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF), under the patronage of Hon. Joseph Emathe Namwar, to address the school's accommodation challenges.

"Our girls now have a safe and decent place to rest after their tedious academic work during the day," Hon. Namwar said while leading members of the National Assembly NG-CDF Committee, led by Hon. Musa Sirma, in inspecting the project.

Hon. Sirma, who chairs the Committee, expressed satisfaction with the quality of workmanship, noting that the Committee was impressed by how MPs were using NG-CDF to transform schools through infrastructure development.




*Hon. Joseph Emathe Namwar (fifth from left) pose for a photo with members of the NG-CDF Committee after inspection the new dormitory at Lomil girls secondary school in his Turkana Central constituency.*

# Rongai MP steps up development projects to improve education and living standards

RONGAI CONSTITUENCY



*Hon Paul Chebor, MP Rongai constituency in Nakuru county speaking in past meetings in the area.*

Rongai MP Hon. Paul Kibet Chebor has stepped up the implementation of development projects aimed at improving education standards and the living standards of residents across the constituency.

Through funding from the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF), the MP has delivered 420 desks and chairs to Chepseon Primary, Ogilgei Primary, Ngecha Primary and Kimangu Primary schools.

"We have also completed the construction of a modern laboratory at Mutuiku Secondary School in Mosop Ward, a key facility aimed at boosting science lessons in the school," he explained.

Other projects include the construction of two classrooms at Kanga Comprehensive School in Visa Ward, ICT hubs at Salgaa Town and Kampi ya Moto Sub-County headquarters, as well as last-mile electricity connectivity at Lengenet Village, among other projects.






*Pupils of Ogilgei primary school have a feeling new desks donated to the school by the MP Hon. Paul Chebor through funding from NG-CDF recently.*

# Hon. Kalasinga delivers an NG-CDF bus to St. Kizito Girls Senior School

KABUCHAI CONSTITUENCY

There were songs and dance at St. Kizito Girls Senior School as enthusiastic students welcomed a new bus delivered to the institution by Kabuchai MP Hon. Majimbo Kalasinga and funded through the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF).

The function was temporarily interrupted when jubilant students rushed to board the new bus upon its arrival at the school, shortly before it was officially handed over to the institution by Hon. Kalasinga.

"The bus will go a long way in cushioning the school against expenses incurred while hiring buses to transport students to academic and co-curricular activities," said the MP.

Earlier, the MP had officially commissioned a modern storey building housing classrooms at Busakala Primary School.




*Hon. Majimbo Kalasinga cuts a plague to officially launch a new bus at St. Kizito Girls' Senior School.*

*Jubilant St. Kizito Girls' Senior School students welcome a new bus delivered by Kabuchai MP Hon. Majimbo Kalasing.*

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Likuyani MP Hon. Innocent Mugabe speaking while chairing a public participation session on the proposed Bill in Malindi town, Kilifi county recently.

# Stakeholders oppose proposed merger of Tourism Agencies, call for increased funding

Stakeholders in the tourism sector are calling for increased funding for the Tourism Research Institute (TRI) rather than its proposed merger with the Kenya Tourism Board (KTB).

Presenting their submissions to the National Assembly Committee on Tourism and Wildlife during a public participation exercise on the proposed Tourism (Amendment) Bill, 2026, in Malindi town, the stakeholders said TRI should remain autonomous and be adequately funded to effectively deliver on its mandate.

Ms Mary Kabani, the Kilifi County Director of Tourism, told the session, chaired by Hon. Innocent Mugabe (Likuyani), that it was wrong to propose merging the institute, which she said was critical to the growth of the tourism industry.

"TRI has been unnoticed because of the financial constraints occasioned by underfunding by the government. Give them money and you would have breathed a new life into the institute to discharge its mandate," Kabani said.

She added that the proposal to merge TRI was ill-timed, noting that the institute plays a key role in providing data and research critical to the tourism industry.

"The proposal in the legislation to merge TRI is ill-timed. The institute plays a key role in providing data about the industry, among other things, and it requires sustainable funding to be effective in its work," said Kabani.

She further noted that the health, agriculture and wildlife sectors had made significant progress because their research institutions were independent and adequately funded. She said the same approach should be adopted for TRI.

Her sentiments were echoed by Progress Welfare Association of Malindi (PWAM) Chairlady Ms Kate Mwikali, who said merging TRI with KTB would negatively affect the tourism industry.

"The institute will be swallowed by the board if the two are merged as proposed in the legislation, thereby making TRI ineffective," she said.

Mwikali also proposed that the headquarters of TRI be relocated to the Coastal region, which she said is heavily dependent on tourism.

"I propose that the headquarters of the institute be moved to the Ronald Ngala Tourism Training Institute in Kilifi County," she said.

Other stakeholders proposed that a clause be included in the proposed law authorising proceeds from the tourism sector to be used to fund the management and cleaning of beaches.

"Beach tourism has grown to be a major source of income for local people, but poor management and failure to keep the beaches clean have impeded its growth. Money should be made available for this purpose," said Ms Pily Kidzo, a member of the Kilifi County Beach Operators Association.

Hon. Mugabe thanked the community for its input, noting that the submissions would be incorporated into the committee's report.



A stakeholder giving her submissions on the proposed Tourism (Amendment), Bill, 2026 during a public participation session at Malindi town, Kilifi county.

## This week in history

# Hansard saves the day as MPs flag Anti-Corruption law error




On September 6, 2011, Parliament demonstrated the importance of its official records when MPs used the Hansard to detect and correct an error in the published Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2011.

During the afternoon sitting, Central Imenti MP Hon. Gitobu Imanyara raised a point of order after discovering a discrepancy between the Act published in the Kenya Gazette Supplement No. 109 of September 5, 2011, and the version approved by the House.

The discrepancy concerned the composition of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission. Hansard records showed that Parliament had approved an amendment providing for three commissioners. However, the gazetted Act provided for a chairperson and four other members.

Hon. Gitobu Imanyara tabled the Hansard and the published Act, enabling the House to verify the discrepancy against its official record.

Deputy Speaker Hon Farah Maalim confirmed the variation, while Transport Minister Hon. Amos Kimunya acknowledged the error and said corrective measures, including a corrigendum, had been initiated.

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