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BUNGE Weekly

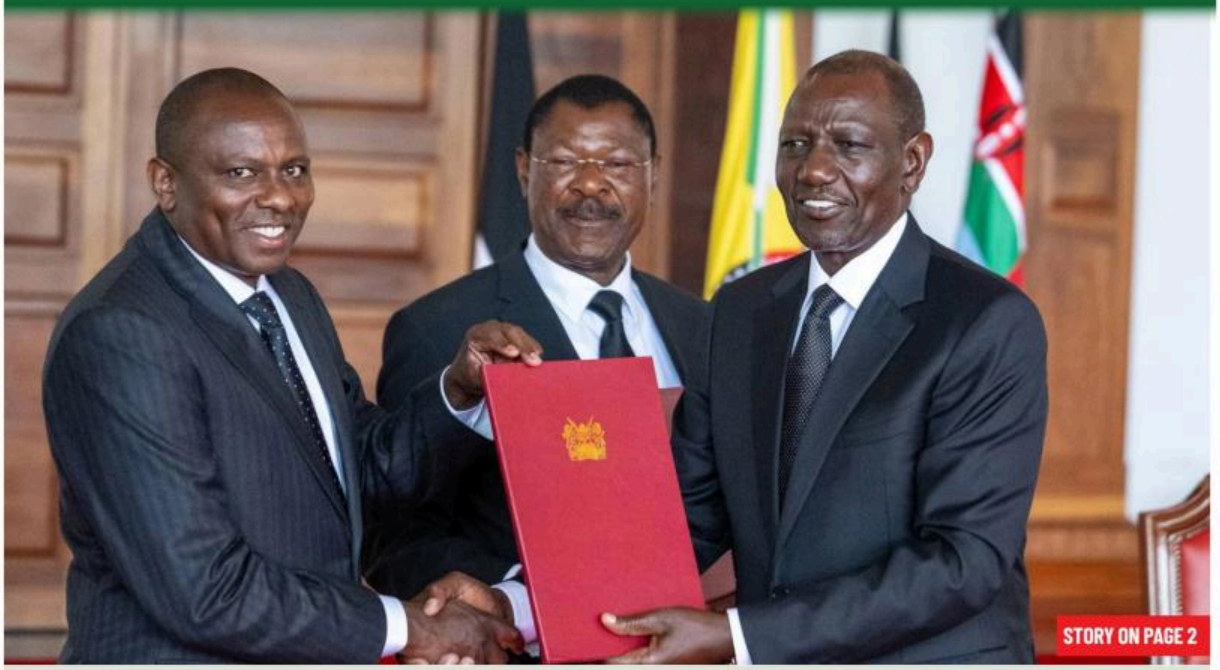
Issue No. 155

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

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Monday, September 14th, 2026 to Monday, September 21st, 2026

New Law tightens accountability in use of public funds



STORY ON PAGE 2

H.E President Dr..William Ruto hands a copy of an Act of Parliament to the Speaker of the National Assembly , Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula and the Leader of the Majority Party, Hon. Kimani Ichungwah, shortly after he assented it to law.



The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and Chair of the Liaison Committee, Hon. Gladys J. Boss (Uasin Gishu), making her remarks during the opening ceremony of the Committee retreat.

Setting the course for the next Parliament

The Liaison Committee pushes for stronger oversight, sharper Committees and a seamless transition to the 14th Parliament.

STORY ON PAGE 3.

E-COPY

Plenary

Parliament affirms climate-smart agriculture and sustainable growth

Members of the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) have reiterated the commitment of the Parliament of Kenya to actualize Climate Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Growth.

Led by Chairperson of the PSC Committee on Information and Public Communication, who is also the Nyeri Senator Wahome Wamatinga, the Commissioners noted that the Kenyan Legislature was central to enhancing the fortunes of agriculture to sustain livelihoods of Kenyans.

The commissioners also called on Kenyans to take a key interest on events at the Parliament of Kenya to better understand governance matters for growth of all sectors of the Kenyan economy.

Senator Wamatinga noted that Parliament's participation at the Nyeri and Mombasa ASK show was timely and offered Kenyans the best opportunity to learn more about the legislative processes of Republic.



PSC Commissioners and staff pose for a photo outside the Parliament of Kenya Stand in Nyeri.

Fellow Commissioners, Senator Okong'o Omugeni (Nyamira) and Hon. Mishi Mboko (Likoni) noted that Kenyan's familiarization with key Parliamentary processes was crucial for citizens to be able to hold their elected leaders to account with regard to their mandate.

"In fact, this is a great opportunity to allow even our young people who have dreams of becoming Members of Parliament to learn how Parliament works to eventually actualize their dreams," noted Senator Wamatinga.

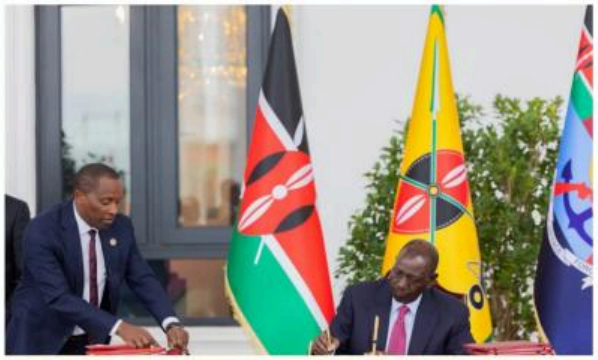
Commissioner Hon. Mboko, said the deliberations on Climate Smart agriculture upon which the ASK show is themed was crucial to deal with emerging challenging in the sector.

"Through the forums available in this show you can learn how to sustain agriculture amid the emerging issues like climate change, and also how to get a produce that is able to yield high market value," she said.

Earlier the Commissioners also inspected the booths within the Parliament Stand ahead of debates between local schools as well as a media roundtable at the venue; also meant to enhance public knowledge of the Kenyan legislature.

FROM PAGE 1

President Ruto assents to PFM Amendments, giving Parliament's Watchdog Committees teeth



H.E. President Dr. William Ruto assents a Bill into law as the Clerk of the National Assembly Mr. Samuel Njoroge looks on.

President William Ruto has assented to the Public Finance Management (Amendment) (No. 4) Bill, 2024, ushering in a raft of reforms to tighten accountability in the management of public resources and strengthen oversight of government finances.

The new law gives greater weight to parliamentary and county assembly oversight by introducing penalties for accounting officers who fail to implement resolutions arising from reports by the Auditor-General and the Controller of Budget. This strengthens oversight and accountability.

The move closes a significant accountability gap in the Public Finance Management Act, where failure to implement such resolutions was previously not expressly listed as an offence.

The amendments also require public entities to submit financial statements within two months, down from three months after the close of a financial year. The change is intended to give the Auditor-General more time to audit the accounts and prepare reports.

The law further strengthens safeguards for employee statutory deductions, including taxes, pension contributions, social health insurance and cooperative society deductions. Persistent failure or delay in remitting such deductions will constitute a material breach and could trigger sanctions, including the stoppage of government transfers.

Another major reform is the introduction of a framework for accrual accounting in Government, bringing into focus not only cash received and spent but also assets, liabilities, income and expenditure incurred during a given period.

The Public Sector Accounting Standards Board will develop the framework, alongside standards for risk management and sustainability reporting. Government will have three years from the law's commencement to transition to accrual accounting.

The legislation also provides a clearer financial framework for transferring functions between the national and county governments under Article 187 of the Constitution.

The framework will address the costing and financing of transferred functions, the management of related assets and liabilities, cash-flow projections, and financial and non-financial reporting.

For budget-making, the law extends the period for Parliament to consider and approve the Budget Policy Statement from 14 to 21 days, allowing more time for scrutiny and public participation. Similar changes apply to the County Fiscal Strategy Paper.

The law also harmonises the timelines for the consideration and passage of Finance Bills by county assemblies and the National Assembly, requiring county Finance Bills to be submitted by April 30 and passed in time for assent by June 30.

Liaison Committee sharpens Parliamentary oversight ahead of the 2027 transition

The National Assembly Liaison Committee has concluded a strategic retreat to strengthen Committee performance, sharpen parliamentary oversight and prepare the institution for the transition to the Fourteenth Parliament.

Chaired by Deputy Speaker Hon. Gladys Boss, MGH, MP, the Liaison Committee brings together the Chairpersons of National Assembly Committees. It plays a key role in guiding and coordinating Committee operations. The retreat, held in collaboration with Members of the Speaker's Panel, provided an opportunity to assess progress during the Thirteenth Parliament and identify areas requiring greater attention.



Members of the National Assembly Liaison Committee, during the opening ceremony of the Liaison Retreat.

Opening the retreat, Hon. Boss challenged Committee Chairpersons to measure performance not merely by the number of sittings held, but by the quality of legislative output, the depth of oversight, the timeliness of reports, and follow-through on recommendations.

Members reviewed statistical data on Committee performance, pending business and operational challenges, and examined the utilisation of Committee resources. Discussions emphasised aligning available resources with approved priorities and ensuring the prudent use of public funds in executing Committee mandates.

The ongoing review of the National Assembly Standing Orders also featured prominently, with Members considering how lessons from the Thirteenth Parliament can inform procedural reforms and provide a stronger foundation for the next Parliament.

With the 2027 General Election approaching, the Committee also considered the election-year budget process, emerging legal issues affecting parliamentary business, and electoral preparedness, including engagement with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).

Members also held focused discussions on two critical areas that directly affect public governance and the lives of Kenyans. Engagement with the National Treasury focused on the national budget process in an election year, particularly the need to safeguard statutory timelines and ensure that the transition to a new Parliament does not disrupt the scrutiny and approval of public spending priorities.

Members also examined emerging judicial pronouncements and litigation affecting parliamentary business, including their implications for Committees' work and Parliament's constitutional mandate. The discussions underscored the importance of ensuring that, even as the country approaches a General Election, Parliament remains firmly focused on the prudent use of public resources, effective oversight, and sound legislation.

By strengthening how Committees work and following through on recommendations, the Liaison Committee is ultimately reinforcing Parliament's ability to deliver on its constitutional mandate and to ensure that oversight and legislation translate into meaningful outcomes for the people of Kenya.

Parliament of Kenya shines at Mombasa, Nyeri ASK shows

The Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) has stood out in the National Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Shows, in demonstration of theme of the event and actualization of its mandate that facilitates it.

PSC participated in the ASK show in Mombasa and Nyeri counties where it won seven awards in the events.

The PSC Stand emerged the best Government exhibitor for promoting National Cohesion and Integration in Mombasa and Nyeri Shows for demonstrating its inclusive nature in both Houses of the Parliament of Kenya.

Additionally, PSC was also picked as best stand at the Nyeri Show in Men/Women Activities Empowerment And Capacity Building, as well as the best Independent Commission Stand.

PSC also stood out as the second best stand in the categories of stands on Government social functions and in interpretation of current theme of the show.

This year's show, held under the theme "Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Growth," brought together government institutions, private sector players, farmers and members of the public.

The awards were received by Parliamentary Service Commissioners led by Chairperson of the PSC Committee on Information and Public Communication matters and Nyeri Senator Wahome Wamatinga and fellow Commissioners Senator Okong'o Mogeni (Nyamira) and Hon. Mishi Mboko (Likoni).

A key attraction art both events was the were guided through Parliament's structure and procedures and also participated in mock Parliamentary proceedings.



Agriculture and Livestock CS Hon. Mutahi Kagwe (Centre) hands over the trophy to Chairperson of the PSC Committee on Information and Public Communication; Commissioner Wahome Wamatinga during the NYeri ASK Show.

The Chief guest at both events was the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock development Hon. Mutahi Kagwe, who also lauded the role the Parliament of Kenya has played in creating awareness and enhancing growth of Kenyan agriculture across all subsectors.

Senator Wamatinga stressed the necessity for Kenyans to actively participate in legislative matters of Kenya's bicameral Parliament, especially in matters Agriculture which is the backbone of the Kenyan economy.

"As citizens you wield the Sovereign Authority and it is important that you understand all these Parliamentary processes because they affect you in all sectors," said Senator Wamatinga.

agriculture is very important and as Kenyans from all walks of life it is important that we understand the role we need to play to grow and sustain it. The Parliament of Kenya has brought the Legislature to the ground so that you can also understand what active role you can play to actualize this."

Hon. Mboko said the exhibition and indeed the participation of PSC at both events had demonstrated that Parliament belongs to the people.

"This is what a people-centred Parliament looks like. When our children from Likoni, Nyeri and any part of this Country sit as Speaker and Clerk and debate real issues, we are building future leaders," she said.

She noted that the PSC participation had indeed enhanced the gender equity conversation with a foresight for actualization of gender equality.

CS Mutahi Kagwe, commended PSC for making Parliament more accessible and demystifying its work.

"What I have seen here is outstanding. Kenyans are asking who sets the budget and how they can petition Parliament. That shows civic education is working. This is how we build trust," he said.

Vice Chairperson of the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Hon. Brighten Yegon and fellow Committee Member Hon. Geoffrey Odanga (Matayos) also lauded PSC participation at the event as a positive initiative to help Kenyans understand the link between legislative work and ordinary livelihoods of Kenyans.

civic education section, where schoolchildren

He added: "This theme on climate smart

Budget Committee scrutinises PFM Reforms as Treasury reports progress on e-GP, TSA and Equalisation Fund



Budget and Appropriations Committee Vice Chairperson, Hon. Robert Pukose (right) alongside Hon. Joseph Lekuton during the meeting

The National Treasury has informed the Budget and Appropriations Committee that ongoing public financial management reforms, including e-Government Procurement (e-GP), the Treasury Single Account (TSA) and accrual accounting, are beginning to strengthen efficiency, transparency of public resources.

Appearing before the Committee, led by Vice Chairperson Hon. Robert Pukose, Treasury officials led by Director General, Budget, Fiscal and Economic Affairs, Mr. Albert Mwenda, outlined progress on the e-GP system, the Treasury Single Account (TSA) and the Equalisation Fund.

Members, however, sought evidence that the reforms were translating into improved budget execution and greater fiscal discipline, with Khwisero MP Hon. Christopher Aseka challenging Treasury to demonstrate whether e-GP was achieving its intended purpose, particularly amid the continued accumulation of pending bills.

"The objective of the e-GP was to enhance efficiency and transparency," Hon. Aseka said, further calling for stronger integration between e-GP and the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) to strengthen expenditure controls.

Mr. Mwenda informed the Committee that e-GP, which was officially rolled out on 1st July 2025, had on boarded 1,546 procuring entities by June 2026. The platform had processed more than 30,000 requisitions.

He added that full integration with IFMIS would strengthen the link between budget planning, procurement, contracting and payment.

The Committee was also briefed on the Equalisation Fund, with Treasury reporting that cumulative receipts into the Fund stood at Ksh. 22.42 billion as at June 30, 2026.

Treasury documents revealed that the Fund had nonetheless supported projects in marginalised communities, including water, roads, health facilities, classrooms and electricity infrastructure.

As at 30th June, 2026, Treasury reported that 296 projects under the 2018 allocation and 1,072 projects under the 2023 allocation had been reported complete.

Lawmakers, however, pointed out that implementation had been affected by delayed financing, project revisions and the fragmentation of resources across numerous small projects.

On the Treasury Single Account, National Treasury said the hybrid model was designed to improve cash management, enhance visibility of Government resources and reduce borrowing costs.



Central Bank of Kenya Governor, Dr. Kamau Thugge (left) and National Treasury Director General, Budget, Fiscal & Economic Affairs, Mr. Albert Mwenda during the meeting with the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

The reforms include invoice twinning, balance checks and just-in-time funding, which the Treasury said would reduce idle balances in Ministries, Departments and Agencies while ensuring funds are released against approved payment requirements.

MPs back tax exemption for Ksh. 3 billion KEMRI research grant

Members of Parliament have approved a proposal to exempt a Sh3 billion Japanese-funded research programme at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) from income tax, arguing that taxing the grant would undermine efforts to strengthen medical research in the country.

The National Assembly adopted the Report of the Committee on Delegated Legislation on the Income Tax Exemption (Amendment of Legal Notice No. 15 of 2021), paving the way for the Project for Strengthening Research Capacity for KEMRI, 2024, to be included among projects exempted from the Income Tax Act.

The exemption, contained in Legal Notice No. 191 of 2025, is intended to facilitate the implementation of a bilateral agreement between Kenya and Japan under which the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is providing Ksh. 3 billion to support research capacity at KEMRI.

Moving the Motion, Ainabkoi MP, Hon. Samwel Chepkonga, who chairs the Committee on Delegated Legislation, said the amendment was simply intended to add the KEMRI project to the list of tax-exempt projects.

"We have 16 projects that have been exempted from the Income Tax Act. This Legal Notice seeks to exempt another project, named the Project for Strengthening Research Capacity for KEMRI, 2024," Mr Chepkonga said.

He said Japan had attached a tax exemption requirement to the funding under the bilateral agreement with Kenya.

"The Japanese Government, through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has extended three billion Kenya shillings for research to this institution, and they have required under the bilateral agreement signed between Kenya and Japan, that the monies that will be given and paid out of this project be exempted from income tax," he said.

Kilgoris MP Julius Sunkuli, who serves both on the Delegated Legislation Committee and the Departmental Committee on Health, said the exemption would give KEMRI greater capacity to mobilise research funding internationally.

"KEMRI is our prime research organisation. We need to understand that research is a very important aspect of our development and that many organisations that have benefited from development have started by benefiting from research," Mr Sunkuli said.

He said the exemption would enable KEMRI to seek additional support from countries with strong research programmes.

"We are asking that KEMRI be included among those organisations that are exempt from the provisions of the Income Tax Act and regulations," he said.



Committee on Delegated Legislation Chairperson, Ainabkoi MP, Hon. Samwel Chepkonga.

the Project for Strengthening Research Capacity

Mama, I made it, dad I ocuppied the Speaker's seat!



A mock procession of the National Assembly during the ASK Show at Kabiruini Grounds in Nyeri.

For a few unforgettable minutes, the Speaker's Chair belonged to a child.

There was no formal suit, no campaign trail and no election victory behind the young occupant. Just a school uniform, a curious mind and the confidence to rise to the occasion.

At Kabiruini Grounds in Nyeri County, where the 2026 Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Show unfolded in a colourful whirl of farm machinery, music and human traffic, the Parliament of Kenya stand offered visitors something different—a glimpse into the business of Parliament through the eyes of children.

Inside a mock parliamentary chamber, students became legislators. One took the Speaker's Chair, another occupied the Clerk's Table, while others assumed the duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms. Suddenly, the classroom had disappeared. The children were running a House.

Outside, visitors watched the proceedings on a giant screen, smiling as young presiding officers called the House to order with surprising seriousness.

But Parliament was not only being played; it was being discovered.

Students wrestled with crossword puzzles, learning words such as *quorum, Speaker, Committee* and *National Assembly*. Others coloured parliamentary images, transforming simple drawings into lessons about representation, legislation and oversight. Then came the debate.

The subject was climate-smart agriculture—a matter close to communities whose livelihoods depend on the land. The young debaters considered unpredictable rainfall, prolonged dry spells, soil and water conservation, technology and the responsibility of protecting the environment for generations yet unborn.

Their voices were young. Their questions were not.

By bringing Parliament closer to the people, the Nyeri ASK Show offered children more than a day of fun. It gave them a sense of ownership of an institution that belongs to them.

Perhaps, as one young Speaker returned to the crowd, there was only one message waiting for home:

"Mama, I made it. Dad, I occupied the Speaker's seat!"



A mock session of the National Assembly as students hold a debate on Climate Smart Agriculture.



Students take up roles of Clerk and Speaker of the National Assembly at a mock chamber in Nyeri ASK Show.

Explainer: Who is who on the National Assembly Chairperson's Panel

If you have watched a sitting of the National Assembly, you may have noticed that the person in the Speaker's Chair is not always the Speaker, the Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses M. Wetang'ula, or the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Gladys J. Boss.

So, who are the other Members who preside over proceedings of the House?

They are members of the Chairperson's Panel, commonly known as the Speaker's Panel, a key part of the leadership structure that helps keep the business of the House running smoothly.

Established under Standing Order 16, the Panel comprises Members appointed to assist in presiding over sittings of the House and the Committee of the whole House.

When called upon to preside, a Panel member takes the Chair and guides proceedings in accordance with the Constitution, Standing Orders and established parliamentary practice. This includes managing debate, maintaining order, giving Members an opportunity to contribute and guiding the House through its business.



The role becomes particularly important during consideration of legislation. In the Committee of the whole House, Bills are examined clause by clause, with Members considering proposed amendments.

The Chairperson's Panel therefore helps ensure that debate remains orderly, procedures are followed and Parliament can effectively discharge its legislative mandate.

So, the next time you see a Member other than the Speaker or Deputy Speaker in the Chair, you will know: that is the Chairperson's Panel at work.

Liaison Committee moves to clear pending business

The National Assembly Liaison Committee has called on Parliamentary Committees to prioritise and conclude pending business as the Thirteenth Parliament moves deeper into its remaining term.

During the Committee's strategic retreat chaired by the Deputy Speaker Hon. Gladys Boss, the Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Samuel Njoroge, presented an overview of business currently requiring attention across Committees.

The figures showed that Committees are handling 25 Government Bills and 25 Committee and Private Members' Bills, while 10 Bills are currently in mediation. A further 22 Bills that are before the Senate are expected to be concluded and may be referred back to the National Assembly.

Committees are also considering 15 petitions and 9 legislative proposals, adding to the volume of business requiring timely scrutiny and determination.



The Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Samuel Njoroge presents statistical data on Committee progress during the Liaison Retreat.

The statistics prompted renewed focus on prioritisation, with Committee Chairpersons encouraged to ensure that Bills, petitions and other matters before them are processed within the available parliamentary timelines with keen focus on the quality of scrutiny and accountability.

Leader of the Majority Party, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, similarly urged Committees to address avoidable backlogs and ensure that matters referred to them are considered and reported back to the House.

The Liaison Committee is focused on ensuring that matters entrusted to Committees translate into decisions, legislation and oversight outcomes that respond to the needs of the people of Kenya.

Tax administration and Power of Mercy Bills top House agenda

The National Assembly is set to resume sittings on September 29 after a month-long recess with MPs expected to take up key legislation touching on public servants' retirement benefits, tax administration and the exercise of presidential powers of mercy.

Major business lined up for the Third Part of the Fifth Session includes the Second Reading of the Public Service Superannuation Scheme (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and consideration by the Committee of the Whole House of the Kenya Revenue Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and the Power of Mercy Bill, 2025.

The House Business Committee, chaired by Leader of the Majority Party Kimani Ichung'wah prioritised the business during its meeting on August 25.

Hon. Ichung'wah, who is also the Kikuyu MP, presented the Committee's schedule to the House, saying MPs would resume their regular sittings on Tuesday, September 29 at 2.30pm.

"The House is set to proceed on its long recess from Friday, 28th August, 2026, and resume its regular sittings for the Third Part of the Fifth Session on Tuesday, 29th September, 2026 at 2.30 p.m.," Hon. Ichung'wah told the House.

The pension legislation will be among the first major Bills to receive attention when MPs return.

The Public Service Superannuation Scheme (Amendment) Bill, 2025 is expected to generate debate on the management and administration of retirement benefits for public servants and the framework governing the public service pension scheme.

The other major item is the Kenya Revenue Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which will be considered by the Committee of the Whole House.

At this stage, MPs consider the Bill clause by clause and may propose amendments before it proceeds to the final stages of parliamentary approval.



National Assembly in session.

MPs will also consider the Power of Mercy Bill, 2025 at Committee of the Whole House stage.

The legislation concerns the constitutional framework governing the President's power of mercy, including the procedures and institutions involved in considering petitions for pardon, remission of sentences, respite, substitution of a less severe form of punishment and other forms of relief provided for under the Constitution.

The power of mercy is exercised on the advice of the Advisory Committee on the Power of Mercy

making the legislation significant in defining how applications are processed and how constitutional safeguards are applied.

The Bills are expected to attract detailed debate as MPs scrutinise their provisions and proposed amendments before deciding whether to approve them.

Beyond legislation, MPs will also return to a number of oversight reports that could not be concluded before the recess.

The House Business Committee has scheduled debate on the Report on the Examination of the Audited Financial Statements of various State corporations in the Rift Valley region.

MPs will also consider the Tenth Report on the Examination of the Audited Financial Statements of Egerton University.

The House is also expected to debate the Eleventh Report on the Examination of Audited Financial Statements for various universities.

Through the Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education, Parliament has increasingly intensified scrutiny of universities and other educational institutions following concerns raised in successive Auditor-General's reports.

With the 2027 General Election approaching, the final stages of the Fifth Session are also expected to see increased parliamentary activity as MPs seek to complete pending legislation, consider oversight reports and address issues affecting their constituencies before the electoral period intensifies.

of the Advisory Committee on the Power of Mercy,

Sotik MP seeks clarity over plans to privatise New KCC

Members of Parliament have raised concerns over reported plans to transition the New Kenya Co-operative Creameries (New KCC) from State ownership to private management warning that the process could affect dairy farmers, employees and other stakeholders.

Sotik MP, Hon. Francis Sigei has sought a statement from the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock on the status of the proposed transition, saying the uncertainty surrounding the process has caused anxiety among dairy farmers and workers, particularly in Sotik.

Hon. Sigei said the New KCC Sotik plant has for years played a critical role in the dairy value chain by providing a ready market for milk produced by farmers and supporting hundreds of households dependent on the dairy economy.

"Over the years, New KCC, particularly the Sotik Plant, has continued to play a significant role in the dairy sector value chain by providing a market for milk produced by farmers," the MP said in Parliament.

The MP said reports of the planned transition had heightened concerns among farmers, employees, suppliers and service providers,



Sotik MP, Hon. Francis Sigei

with some stakeholders allegedly yet to receive payments.

He raised concern that some dues, including statutory deductions, had reportedly not been remitted since June 2026.

The MP wants the Agriculture and Livestock Committee to establish the current ownership and operational status of the Sotik plant and provide details of any plans, timelines and procedures for transitioning New KCC from State ownership to private management.

He also wants the Committee to explain the policy rationale behind the proposed change, including its objectives and the expected benefits to dairy farmers.

The MP's request comes amid growing questions over the future of State-owned enterprises and the safeguards required when public assets are transferred to private management.

Mr Sigei further demanded details of any public participation and consultations undertaken before the proposed transition.

He wants the Committee to establish whether dairy farmers, co-operative societies, employees, suppliers, consumers and other stakeholders have been consulted and how their views have influenced the process.

The MP also wants a comprehensive audit of all outstanding debts and liabilities involving the Sotik plant.

These include money owed to dairy farmers, co-operatives, suppliers, employees and other creditors, as well as liabilities owed by the plant. He said arrangements should be made to settle or offset the debts before or during the transition.

Sugar industry players oppose Crops Laws Amendment Bill



Hon. John Mutunga, the Chairperson of the Agriculture and Livestock Committee during stakeholder engagements on the Crops Law (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Sugar farmers and industry stakeholders have opposed the proposed Crops Laws Amendment Bill, 2026, warning that it could undermine financing and support for the sugar sector.

The stakeholders raised their concerns when they appeared before the National Assembly Agriculture and Livestock Committee, chaired by Tigania West MP Dr John Mutunga, to make submissions on the proposed legislation.

The Bill, sponsored by Leader of the Majority Party Kimani Ichung'wah, seeks to transfer sector-specific lending functions to the Kenya Agribusiness Development Corporation Limited (KADCO), bringing together the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) and the Commodities Fund under the National Treasury.

Dr. Mutunga said the proposed changes were intended to strengthen financing for agriculture.

"This Bill seeks to protect the poorly funded agriculture sector, rather than take away from it by combining the strengths of these two agencies,"

However, Mr. Nick Oloo of the Kenya Sugar Manufacturers Association (KESMA) said the Bill was unnecessary, arguing that existing sector-specific institutions already perform functions similar to those proposed for KADCO.

"This Bill fails to address what lacuna in the law it seeks to fill and serves no interest of the common sugar farmer or miller," Mr. Oloo said.

He warned that diverting funds from the Sugar Development Levy to KADCO would weaken accountability to the sugar industry and undermine the Sugar Act, 2024, which was enacted to provide support to the struggling sector.

Mr. Oloo further cautioned that the proposed amendments could revive challenges experienced after the enactment of the Crops Act, 2013.

"After the Crops Act 2013 was enacted, industry financing declined, cane development and factory rehabilitation stalled, productivity fell, farmer support weakened, and reliance on imported sugar increased," he said.

Mr. Atiang Atyang of the Kenya Association of Sugarcane and Allied Products (KASAP) urged the Committee to safeguard what he termed gains made under the Sugar Act, 2024.

"We must protect what was achieved by the Sugar Act 2024. Before its enactment, the sugar sector was receiving the least portion under AFA and the Commodities Fund despite being among the largest sectors," he said.

Mr. Atyang also expressed concern that KADCO could replicate the model of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), which he blamed for contributing to the collapse of several sugar factories, including Chemelil Sugar, Muhoroni Sugar and Mumias Sugar.

But Mr. Michael Arum of the Sugar Campaign for Change supported the proposed amendments, saying the debate should focus less on which institution manages the funds and more on creating an effective financing framework for smallholder farmers.

"The issue here is not simply which institution should manage the funds. It is simply proposing a financing architecture that will make smallholder farmers organised and financeable," Mr. Arum said.

He cited Malawi and South Africa as examples of countries that have adopted financing models aimed at improving access to credit for smallholder farmers.



The Agriculture and Livestock Committee meeting stakeholder on the Crops Law (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

he said.

Committee assured that Human-wildlife conflict victims will be fully compensated



Session Chairperson Hon. Peter Kihungi, seeks a clarification from the Tourism Ministry CS.

The Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife has reaffirmed the Government's commitment to compensating victims of human-wildlife conflict, saying significant resources have been allocated to settle outstanding claims.

Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife Ms. Rebecca Miano said the Ministry is also working to strengthen the legislative framework governing wildlife conservation and management.

Appearing before the Public Petitions Committee to respond to Public Petition No. 4 of 2026 on human-wildlife conflict in Kajiado County, Ms. Miano, who was accompanied by Principal Secretary, State Department for Wildlife, Ms. Silvia Museiya. outlined measures being implemented to address compensation claims across the country.

The Petition was presented by Hon. George Sunkuiya (Kajiado West), who called for enhanced intervention measures for communities affected by HWC in the county.

PS Museiya informed the Committee that the Government has progressively increased resources allocated to HWC compensation, with approximately Ksh. 960 million disbursed nationally during the 2025/2026 Financial Year, including Ksh. 64.126 million to beneficiaries in Kajiado County.

CS Miano noted that deliberate measures had been undertaken over the past four years to clear a compensation backlog accumulated over approximately 10 years.



A sitting of the Public Petitions Committee during the engagement with the Ministry for Tourism and Wildlife.



The petitioner, Kajiado West MP Hon. George Sunkuiya, presents his case on human-wildlife conflict effect in Kajiado County.

The Committee, led by session Chairperson Hon. Peter Kihungi (Kangema), raised concerns over transparency and accountability in identifying and compensating beneficiaries, stressing that openness is essential in building public confidence among affected communities.

In response, PS Museiya said the Department had enhanced transparency by conducting public compensation exercises, including in HWC hotspots such as Voi, Rumuruti and Meru. She added that a comprehensive list of Kajiado beneficiaries who have received compensation would be submitted to the Committee through the Clerk of the National Assembly.

MPs raise alarm over spread of fake alcohol



Samburu West MP Naisula Lesuuda. She has asked the National Assembly to demand answers from the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security on measures being taken to protect alcohol consumers.

Members of Parliament have raised alarm over the growing manufacture and sale of adulterated alcohol, warning that counterfeit drinks are exposing Kenyans to serious health risks while fuelling alcohol abuse among young people.

The MPs want the Government to intensify surveillance, enforcement and prosecution of individuals and networks involved in manufacturing, distributing and selling fake alcoholic beverages.

Hon. Naisula Lesuuda (Samburu West) asked the National Assembly to demand answers from the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security on measures being taken to protect consumers.

Hon. Lesuuda said unscrupulous traders were increasingly producing and selling fake alcohol, putting unsuspecting consumers at risk of serious illness, permanent disability and death.

She wants the Committee to establish how Government agencies identify, intercept and destroy adulterated drinks before they reach the market, while requiring the Anti-Counterfeit Authority, Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and other regulators to explain measures taken to ensure alcoholic products meet safety and quality standards.

Leader of the Majority Party Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah (Kikuyu) supported the request, saying illicit alcohol had become a major problem requiring a multi-sectoral response involving health, security and administrative agencies.

Hon. Ichung'wah said counterfeiters were increasingly using bottles bearing labels of established brands to repackage fake liquor, making it difficult for consumers to distinguish genuine products.

"Many people are consuming known brands containing fake alcohol," he said.

Hon. Ichung'wah further urged authorities to treat alcoholism as a public health concern, noting that Parliament had previously recognised it as a disease and called for greater investment in treatment and rehabilitation.

Hon. Irene Mayaka (Nominated) said young people in counties including Nyamira were increasingly affected, urging authorities to improve public awareness on identifying genuine products. She encouraged consumers to use QR codes on alcoholic beverages to verify authenticity.

Hon. Duncan Mathenge (Nyeri Town) accused county governments of being a weak link in the fight against illicit alcohol, alleging that some bars operated without proper licences and that business owners escaped prosecution when their employees were arrested.

Hon. Jematiah Sergon (Baringo County) said legislation alone would not end alcohol and substance abuse, urging action on the social factors driving the problem.

Quotes of The Week



Politics should never be a space where women are punished for being ambitious or where a woman's private life is used as a weapon against her. Leadership should be judged by ideas, character, ability, service, and vision, not by whether someone is a man or a woman. We are living in the 21st century, not the old days when society believed leadership belonged only to men. Today, women are doctors, engineers, business leaders, pilots, politicians, entrepreneurs, community leaders, and presidents. Women are succeeding in spaces once considered the preserve of men. Politics should not be any different. Women deserve equal opportunities to lead.

-Hon. Faith Gitau (Nyandarua)



While I respect the proposal and call to harmonise the medical and veterinary professions, the two are not the same. The university entry requirements are different, the length of training is different, and the nature of work is different. Making a mistake when treating a goat or a dog is not the same as making a mistake when treating a child. Therefore, the issue of harmonisation does not even arise. However, it is good to let those proposing it try their luck. To the best of my knowledge, the veterinary and medical professions cannot, by any standard, be equated or considered the same.

- Hon. Prof Guyo Jaldesa (Moyale)



Veterinary doctors are doctors who have studied medicine, with the difference being that they practise on animals while medical doctors treat human beings. The risks they face while performing their duties are largely similar. Therefore, when veterinary doctors seek harmonisation of their remuneration, we should support them. Their work involves examining, diagnosing and treating animals, just as medical doctors examine and treat human beings. The main difference is that animals cannot speak or explain their conditions. Veterinary doctors, however, perform equally important medical work. We should support them and ensure they receive fair remuneration for their services and rightful contribution to society.

- Hon. Tom Odege (Nyatike)



Insecurity cases have continued to rise in my constituency and other parts of the country, including incidents of sexual and gender-based violence. Pupils leave home as early as 5.00 a.m. to report to school by 6.00 a.m., exposing learners, especially girls, to risks during morning hours. The Cabinet Secretary for Education may need to remind school heads of policies and importance of reporting abuse early. I have suffered as many of my children have experienced sexual-based violence (SBV). The latest incident involved children who had acid poured on them. We may need to issue circulars. That would be very important.

- Hon. Irene Njoki (Bahati)



Because monkeys are not seen as threatening, people rarely take them seriously as wild animals. However, they affect crops in many areas. In my constituency, particularly Kamato near the game park, monkeys are a major menace. Along the lake, we face challenges from hippos and crocodiles, while in the valley, monkeys destroy crops. Even in my Nairobi home, monkeys regularly come and eat the fruits before we can enjoy them. As legislators, we should enact a law recognising monkeys as wild animals for crop compensation. Farmers spend significant time, effort and resources on their farms and deserve protection from such losses.

-Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona (Suba North)



Utalii College happens to be in my constituency, and it has never been closed down as claimed. Even during the COVID-19 period, I visited the college and ate at its restaurant as the Member of Parliament for the area. The only issue is that it is underfunded. When we discuss whether there should be colleges in every constituency, I doubt that is the Government's policy. People come to my constituency to study, and very few students come from the area. I do not begrudge them. They can come from Tana River, Mbita, or elsewhere. What we need is to fund these institutions and make them world-class centres of excellence.

-Hon. TJ Kajwang' (Ruaraka)



When Safaricom reassigns a number, it should notify individuals who have previously saved that number. I have personally fallen victim to such a situation, where I sent money to a number saved in my phone under a specific name, only to realise later that the intended recipient had not received the money because the number had been reassigned to another person. We cannot hold the new receiver responsible for this issue. It is within Safaricom's capacity and responsibility to ensure that once a number is reassigned, those who previously saved it are notified. This would help prevent such misunderstandings and financial losses.

- Hon. Kassim Tandaza (Matuga)



As a woman in politics, I am aware that violence discourages more women from running for political office. Women are threatened, intimidated and often unable to have goons or organisations used to perpetrate political violence. This points to a bigger issue that must be addressed. If we do not act decisively against violence, we shall face greater consequences during the next elections. The situation is getting out of hand and requires urgent action. More action should be taken not only against civilians involved in violence, but also against police officers who participate in, facilitate or tolerate such scenarios during political activities and elections.

- Hon. Martha Wangari (Gilgil)



Parents who have children living with disabilities do not work the whole day. They often go on half-duty because taking care of a child living with a disability is another job. This should not be taken as something that only needs to be given a thought; it must be given serious consideration. We should support these parents because they carry a significant mental and emotional burden. Given that we provide waivers to people living with disabilities, we should also consider their parents and provide additional support, even double the waiver, because of the responsibility and challenges of caring for children living with disabilities.

- Hon. Dorice Donya (Kisii County)



In many cases, independent bodies can go rogue, and we have seen and heard it. They need to be checked because they can become excessive, particularly when they are not held to account. The Office of the Auditor-General is very powerful in the country and can bring down the Government if not properly checked. A few months ago, questions arose in the public domain about how the office uses its funds. It audits other institutions, yet it is not audited, meaning it is not properly checked. Therefore, we need a credible and independent auditor to audit the Auditor-General and ensure accountability.

- Hon. Mugambi Rindikiri (Buuri)

CLIQUE & CLICKS



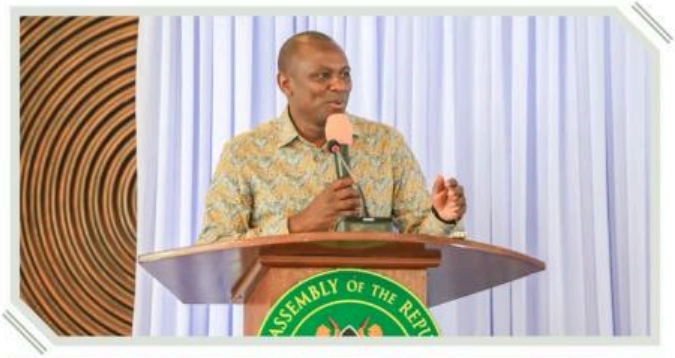
Members of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, Eldas MP, Hon. Adan Keynan in a meeting.



Members of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, Kapenguria MP, Hon. Samwel Moroto (left) and Lakipia County MP, Hon. Jane Kagiri in a meeting.



The Chairperson's Panel, Hon. Peter Kaluma, CBS, MP (Fifth Chairperson of Committees) and Chairperson, Committee on Regional Integration Hon. (CS) Irene Mayaka at the Liaison Committee Retreat.



Leader of Majority Party and Chairperson, Committee on Selection, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, EGH, MP delivers his opening remarks during the Liaison Committee Retreat.



Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development, Hon. Mutahi Kagwe, touring the Parliament of Kenya Stand during the official opening of the Central Kenya National A.S.K. Show in Nyeri County.



Students from Nyeri County take centre stage in a mock parliamentary debate at the Parliament of Kenya Stand during the Central Kenya National A.S.K. Show in Nyeri County.



Member of the Agriculture and Livestock Committee, Hon. Geoffrey Odanga (Matayos), signs the visitors' book at the Parliament of Kenya Stand during the



Parliament staff, led by the Ag. Director ICT and Library Services, Mr. Harrison Owino, OGW, celebrate after the Parliament of Kenya Stand emerged victorious

Central Kenya National A.S.K. Show in Nyeri County.

in five categories at the Central Kenya National A.S.K. Show in Nyeri County.

BUNGE MASHINANI

KURESOI SOUTH CONSTITUENCY

Hon. Tonui assesses school infrastructure, community priorities

Kuresoi South MP Hon. Joseph Tonui recently visited Chigamba Comprehensive School and Senior School in Kiptagich Ward to assess infrastructure and the learning environment.

The visit provided an opportunity to review progress made through the NG-CDF, including the construction of classrooms and other infrastructure improvements.

Hon. Tonui reaffirmed his commitment to supporting the schools with the facilities required to provide learners with a safe, modern and conducive environment for education.

The MP also held discussions with chiefs, assistant chiefs, village elders and local leaders at Chigamba Secondary School grounds on key community priorities.

Hon. Tonui said sustainable development requires collaboration among community leaders, government agencies and other stakeholders to address local priorities and translate shared development goals into tangible results.



Kuresoi South MP, Hon. Joseph Tonui inspecting a guard of honour mounted by learners of Chigamba Comprehensive School and Senior School in Kiptagich Ward.



Kuresoi South MP, Hon. Joseph Tonui meeting chiefs, assistant chiefs, village elders and local leaders at Chigamba Secondary School grounds.

Hon. Zaheer unveils eight new classrooms at Kiamandu Comprehensive School

NYARIBARI CHACHE CONSTITUENCY



Nyaribari Chache MP, Hon. Zaheeer Jhandi, speaks at Kiamandu Comprehensive School after officially opening eight new classrooms aimed at easing congestion and improving the learning environment. He later joined the school's pupils for a dance during the official opening ceremony.

Kiamandu Comprehensive School in Nyaribari Chache Constituency has undergone a major infrastructure transformation following the construction of eight modern classrooms aimed at easing congestion and improving the learning environment for pupils.

Nyaribari Chache MP, Hon. Zaheer Jhandi, officially opened the new classrooms, which were constructed through funding from the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF).

The project is part of the legislator's efforts to improve education standards across the constituency through investment in school infrastructure as per his manifesto.

"The opening of the new classrooms reaffirms my commitment to investing in education for the future of our generation. My agenda is to transform the ageing face of our schools through infrastructure development," said Hon. Jhandi.

The MP challenged school management and teachers to ensure that the facilities, constructed using millions of taxpayers' money, are properly maintained so they can serve current and future generations of learners.



New classrooms that were constructed through funding from Nyaribari Chache NG-CDF and opened by area MP Hon. Zaheeer Jhandi.

Nyali MP supports amputee and vulnerable students as he decries poor state of PWDs

NYALI CONSTITUENCY

Mama Rahab Machungwa, who lost her leg due to injuries, was all smiles after receiving support from Nyali MP Hon. Mohammed Ali to improve her mobility and support her business ventures.

During a meeting with women's groups, Hon. Ali donated Ksh. 125,000 to Mama Machungwa to help her acquire a prosthetic limb. He also provided her with a wheelchair to enhance her mobility and independence.

The MP further donated Ksh. 75,000 towards university tuition fees for Daniel Mutua, an orphan studying at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT).

"The plight of Daniel Mutua touched me and I had to support his university education journey by paying his tuition fees," said Hon. Ali.

Hon. Ali noted that People With Disabilities (PWDs) deserve greater support, observing that many live in deplorable conditions that further worsen their challenges. He pledged to continue supporting vulnerable and less fortunate members of society.



Nyali MP Hon. Mohammed Ali assists Mama Rahab, an amputee, sit on a wheelchair he donated to her recently.



Hon. Mohammed Ali addresses members of various groups during engagements focused on development matters and empowerment programmes. He later receives a gift from the members as a gesture of appreciation.

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Parliament to host regional dialogue on gender responsive and inclusive parliaments

The Parliament of Kenya, in partnership with the Canadian High Commission in Kenya and the Inclusive Legislatures for Gender Responsive Policies (ILGRP) Project, will host a two-day Regional Forum aimed at advancing gender responsive lawmaking and budgeting to promote equitable governance and strengthen accountability.

The forum, scheduled to take place between 23rd–24th September 2026, will bring together Members of Parliament, international delegates, senior administrators, Human Resource Directors and Civil Society representatives from Kenya, Ghana and Togo.

The event, funded by Global Affairs Canada and implemented by the African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA) and the Parliamentary Centre (PC) is the last regional forum of the ILGRP Project, marking the conclusion of the four year initiative.

It will be held under the theme, "Sharing Achievements and Advancing Forward-Looking Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Parliaments," and is expected to enhance legislative oversight, citizen engagement, development and refinement of policies, tools and manuals.



Participants of the ILGRP Forum 2025 held in Accra, Ghana pose for a group photo on the sidelines of the event. Lawmakers Hon. Linet Chepkorir (2nd right) and Nominated Senator Hon. Hezena Lemaletian (3rd right) represented Kenya at the event.

The Regional Dialogue will provide a platform for a multi-country knowledge exchange highlighting actionable insights, proven methodologies and lessons learnt by the aforementioned legislatures.

Participants will engage in interactive roundtables, share perspectives on strategic alignment, examine good practices, common challenges and critical success factors that can be implemented in different Parliamentary contexts and inform future initiatives.

The dialogue will also have question and answer sessions as well as networking sessions geared to facilitate engagement between donors and parliamentary representatives in rotating interactive World Café discussions on strategic alignment, donor coordination, Parliamentary autonomy and long-term sustainability.

On the 2nd day, the meeting will focus on how the participating Parliaments are using innovative tools, digitalisation, institutional reforms and evidence-based frameworks to amplify citizen voices and strengthen the relationship between Parliaments and the public.

The Regional Forum is expected to institutionalize best practices that promote greater inclusion, gender responsiveness, citizen participation and accountability in parliamentary governance.

This week in history

The Inauguration of the 13th Parliament



Parliament Building Newly elected Members of Parliament are sworn in at the First Sitting of the 13th Parliament on 8 September 2022

On 8 September 2022, exactly 30 days after Kenya's general election, the 13th Parliament convened, with 349 Members of the National Assembly and 67 Senators sworn into office.

The new Parliament opened amid a closely contested election whose outcome had been upheld by the Supreme Court just days earlier. The day's key business was the election of Speakers. In the National Assembly, Moses Wetang'ula defeated former Speaker Kenneth Marende with 215 votes against 130, becoming the eighth Speaker since independence. In the Senate, Amason Kingi was elected unopposed after Kalonzo Musyoka withdrew, becoming the third Speaker of the reconstituted Senate. Gladys Boss Shollei was subsequently elected Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

The transition continued with the swearing-in of President William Ruto and Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua on 13 September 2022, followed by the President's inaugural Joint Sitting address on 29 September.

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