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BUNGE Weekly

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

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Monday, September 21st, 2026 to Monday, September 28th, 2026



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Commonwealth Conference: Speaker calls for accountability from climate polluters

National Assembly Speaker Hon. Moses Wetang'ula delivering his speech during a meeting on climate adaptation and resilience at the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Cape Town, South Africa



Vihiga County MP Hon. Beatrice Adagala addressing delegates during the Commonwealth Women's Forum at Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa

Female legislators decry political violence, financing gaps as a major obstacle holding back women from seeking political office.

STORY ON PAGE 4.

E-COPY

Plenary

MPs call for adequate funding to implement Women's Economic Empowerment Policy



The Vice Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Social Protection, Hon. Hillary Kosgei, addressing the participants in the workshop

Members of Parliament have called for adequate funding, stronger coordination and effective oversight to ensure the National Policy on Women's Economic Empowerment (NPWEE) translates from policy into tangible economic opportunities for Kenyan women.

The legislators raised the concerns during a sensitisation workshop convened by the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) and the Institute of Public Finance (IPF) to examine the NPWEE and Sessional Paper No. 6 of 2026.

Speaking on behalf of KEWOPA Chairperson, Nairobi County MP Hon. Esther Passaris, participants said Parliament and other stakeholders must scrutinise how the policy will be financed, implemented across the two levels of government, monitored and evaluated.

"Most importantly, let us ensure that the National Policy on Women's Economic Empowerment does not remain only a framework on paper, but becomes a basis for coordinated action that expands women's economic opportunities," she said.

Vice Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Social Protection, Hon. Hillary Kosgei, warned that inadequate financing could undermine implementation, citing lessons from Sessional Paper No. 2 of 2019 on the National Policy on Gender and Development.

He noted that although the previous policy received parliamentary approval, only KSh15 million was allocated against a requirement of KSh500 million, undermining its implementation.

Hon. Kosgei said the new policy seeks to tackle systemic barriers to women's economic empowerment through a comprehensive framework involving State and non-State actors, as well as national and county governments.

Deputy Majority Leader and Kilifi North MP Hon. Owen Baya called for a broader approach, saying women's empowerment should be treated as a family and community agenda rather than a standalone initiative.

The workshop underscored the need to support women in informal businesses and table banking, while investing in financial literacy, education, sustainable enterprises, seed capital and second-chance opportunities for girls.

KEWOPA Consultant Dr Chris Afifu urged Parliament to strengthen oversight by tracking what is appropriated, released and spent, who benefits and the outcomes achieved.

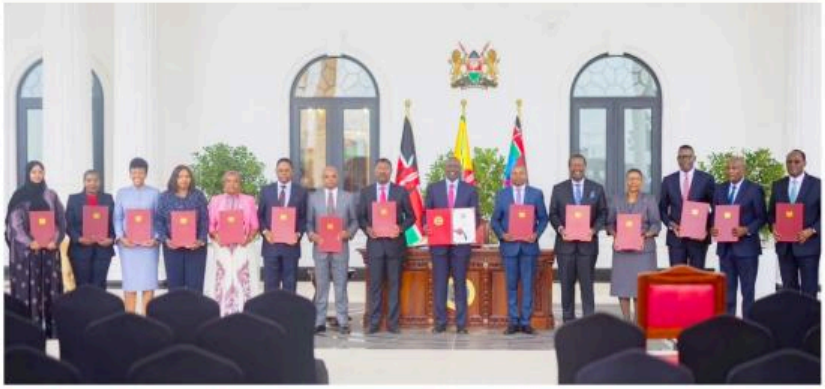
Secretary of Gender Dr Justine Ogondo stressed the importance of adequate resourcing.

"A policy without resources is a promise without a plan," she said.

President Ruto assents to Population Bill, strengthening coordination of Kenya's development agenda

President William Ruto has assented to the Kenya National Council for Population and Development Bill, 2023, giving the country's population and development coordination body a firm statutory foundation and strengthening its role in national planning.

The legislation, sponsored by Leader of the Majority Party in the National Assembly, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, establishes the Kenya National Council for Population and Development (KNC&PD) as a body corporate under an Act of Parliament.



H.E President William Ruto (center) alongside Parliamentary Leadership including National Assembly Speaker, Hon. Moses Wetang'ula during the assent of several Bills at State House, Nairobi

The move is expected to strengthen the coordination of population programmes and ensure that population dynamics are more effectively integrated into national and county development planning.

The Council was previously established through Legal Notice No. 120 of 2004 under an Executive Order. The new law formally anchors the institution in legislation, providing a clearer mandate to coordinate population and development programmes across the country.

Under the new framework, the Council will serve as the focal point for population and development matters, while developing, reviewing and coordinating implementation of the national population policy.

It will also coordinate population and development activities undertaken by different stakeholders, including national and county governments.

A key responsibility of the Council will be to undertake research and analysis on population issues and use the findings to inform policy and planning. It will also develop, publish and disseminate policies, plans and publications relating to population and development.

The Council will further identify emerging population issues and advise national and county governments on matters that may not be adequately addressed through existing interventions.

Importantly, the legislation empowers the Council to establish standards for population programmes, potentially providing a more coordinated framework for monitoring and evaluating interventions across the country.

The law is also expected to align Kenya's institutional framework with regional and international best practices, where population coordinating agencies are established through legislation.

The Bill provides for the composition and administration of the Council's Board and sets out transitional arrangements for the transfer of assets, liabilities and staff from the former Council to the newly established statutory body.

Budget Committee seeks faster disbursement, greater impact of Equalisation Fund



Budget and Appropriations Committee Vice - Chairperson Hon. Robert Pukose (left) addresses the Committee during the meeting

Members of the National Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committee have called for measures to strengthen the implementation of the Equalisation Fund, saying the constitutional facility remains critical for addressing historical disparities and improving access to basic services in marginalised areas.

The Committee, chaired by Vice-Chairperson Hon. Robert Pukose, raised the matter when Controller of Budget Dr. Margret Nyakang'o appeared before the Committee to brief Members on the implementation of the FY 2025/26 budget.

Dr. Nyakang'o told the Committee that her office had authorised withdrawals totalling Kshs.4.17 billion to the Equalisation Fund during the financial year, in accordance with Article 204 of the Constitution.

The funds comprised Kshs.246.20 million for First Policy development pending bills in favour of the Ministry of Water and Sanitation and Kshs.3.92 billion for Second Policy development projects in 25 County Governments. The Equalisation Fund Secretariat also received Kshs.273.05 million.

However, the Controller noted that some counties recorded low absorption of their allocated Equalisation Fund resources during the period under review, raising concerns about delays in translating approved resources into projects and services for communities.

She further observed that allocations to some counties under the Second Policy were negligible, potentially limiting the Fund's ability to achieve the equity objectives for which it was established.

"The continued non-utilisation of the allocated resources may adversely affect the timely implementation of planned projects and the achievement of the Fund's intended objectives," said Dr. Nyakang'o.

She recommended that the Equalisation Fund Administrator identify the factors behind the low absorption and develop an implementation plan to address the bottlenecks affecting the use of the funds.

Hon. Adan Keynan said the Equalisation Fund was established to address injustices that had affected parts of the country and called for renewed efforts to ensure it delivers on that mandate.

"The Fund was meant to cure some of the injustices that have affected parts of Kenya. The Fund as it is right now is not meeting the intended purpose," said Hon. Keynan.

On her part, Hon. Jane Kagiri sought clarification on the factors contributing to the low absorption and asked the Controller of Budget to provide her with an assessment of whether the Fund was achieving its intended objectives.

Members also examined how the Fund could be implemented without duplicating projects already financed through other devolved funding mechanisms.

Hon. Pukose noted that the National Assembly had recently declined to pass the Equalisation Fund Bill over concerns about possible duplication in procurement and funding of projects that may already be financed through county resources.

He said the concerns should be addressed to ensure that resources allocated through the Fund complement existing development programmes and maximise benefits for communities.



Controller of Budget Dr. Margret Nyakang'o appearing before the Committee to brief Members on the implementation of the FY 2025/26 budget

Special Funds Committee probes delays in settling squatters' claims

The National Assembly Special Funds Accounts Committee has inspected three parcels of land acquired by the Land Settlement Fund in Kilifi and Mombasa Counties, following unresolved audit queries raised by the Office of the Auditor General for the 2022/2023 to 2024/2025 financial years.

The inspection covered Mikanjuni and Mazrui farms in Kilifi County and Kadza Ndani in Mombasa County, which together span 1,616.78 acres and were acquired for Ksh1.2 billion to resettle squatters and informal settlers affected by historical land injustices.

At Mazrui Farm, Members questioned the process for identifying and adjudicating beneficiaries, particularly amid changing settlement patterns.

"How do you avoid situations in which squatters seek to take advantage of the process?" asked Bonchari MP, Hon (Dr.) Charles Ononke.

Members also raised concerns about delays, warning that changes in population and settlement patterns could complicate beneficiary identification.

"As we wait for the subdivision to take place, the dynamics are shifting. Families are growing, squatters are arriving, and maps keep changing," said Hon Majimbo Kalasinga.



Members of the Special Funds Accounts Committee survey an adjudication map during an inspection visit to Mikanjuni Farm in Kilifi County

Hon Kalasinga urged the Ministry and the Fund to safeguard the current beneficiary list and the land earmarked for settlement.

"For the purpose of safeguarding the land and settlement, you should ring-fence the existing list and land to complete the process," he stressed.

Director of Land Adjudication and Settlement at the Ministry of Lands, Mr Kennedy Njenga, informed the Committee that payment for two of the three parcels targeted at Mazrui had been completed, with the acquired portions awaiting completion of adjudication.

The Committee was further informed that Blocks 78 and 80 had been fully acquired, and that adjudication was almost complete.

However, block 79 faced challenges after approximately 1,000 acres of the total 1,800 acres had been leased to Mombasa Cement for quarrying activities rendering the land unsuitable for settlement.

Mr. Njenga, however, noted that discussions were underway to facilitate the acquisition and partitioning of the remaining land.

At Mikanjuni Farm, the Committee was informed that planning challenges affecting the 91-acre parcel had been addressed, with about 1,300 residents expected to receive titles.

Mr. Njenga said stakeholder engagement and planning had been completed and the process was at the final approval stage before the issuance of titles.

At Kadza Ndani, the Committee was informed that longstanding challenges had been resolved and that titles had already been issued to residents.

The inspection is expected to inform the Committee's consideration of the audit queries and subsequent recommendations, which will be presented to the House in a report.

FROM PAGE 1

Speaker calls for accountability from major climate polluters

National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula has called on major environmental polluters to honour their commitments under multilateral climate agreements.

He warned that developing nations continue to bear the greatest burden of climate change despite contributing the least to global emissions.

Speaking during a meeting on promoting Climate Adaptation and Resilience at the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, Wetang'ula said the global community was still suffering the consequences of environmental degradation caused by developed nations that have failed to fully implement existing climate agreements.

"The Paris Agreement, adopted in December 2015 as a legally binding international treaty on climate change, requires major environmental offenders to take responsibility for meeting their commitments," he said.

The Speaker noted that many Commonwealth countries, particularly those with minimal contributions to global pollution, continue to face severe environmental challenges, including extreme weather events, food insecurity and economic losses linked to climate change.



Speaker Hon. Moses Wetang'ula following proceedings during a meeting on Climate adaptation measures at Cape Town International Convention Centre in South Africa

He urged major polluters to play a more active role in financing and supporting efforts aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change.

While commending member states for implementing climate adaptation measures, Hon. Wetang'ula criticised what he described as attempts by some major polluters to dismiss climate initiatives as a "hoax", saying such views undermine global efforts to address the climate crisis.

"I challenge the Commonwealth to engineer a return to a multilateral approach to deal with the effects of climate change," he said.

Speaker Wetang'ula observed that although many countries have enacted robust climate change laws and policies, they continue to suffer the consequences of environmental degradation caused elsewhere.

"Climate change is no longer an issue for endless debate, thus, the need for greater accountability and concerted action by governments, legislators and other stakeholders to strengthen mitigation and adaptation efforts," he said.

Homa Bay Senator Hon. Otieno Kajwang', who was among the panelists, highlighted Kenya's progress in climate adaptation, citing investments in climate-smart agriculture, small-scale irrigation and the solarisation of agricultural value chains.

"Kenya has invested in smart agriculture, small-scale irrigation and the solarisation of value chains as climate adaptation initiatives, which have had a positive impact on local communities," he said.

Female Legislators decry political violence, funding gaps as impediment to increasing their numbers in parliament

Political violence, intimidation and lack of adequate financial resources have emerged as major obstacles holding back women from seeking political office, female legislators from Kenya told a Commonwealth parliamentary forum in Cape Town, South Africa.

The legislators said the hostile and increasingly expensive political environment continues to discourage women from entering politics, limits their ability to mount competitive campaigns and makes it difficult for those already elected to build the networks and visibility required to advance their political careers.

The concerns were raised during the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) session on the opening day of the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference where female legislators from across the Commonwealth shared experiences and explored practical ways of dismantling barriers to women's participation in political leadership.

Hon. Beatrice Adagala, Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, said women continue to face formidable obstacles in their quest for political leadership and called for practical interventions to enable more women to compete for elective positions.



Vihiga County MP Hon. Beatrice Adagala (centre) and other delegates in a jovial mood during the meeting

"Women have always been confronted by barriers that hinder them from achieving their political dreams. This conference should help come up with practical ways of freeing aspiring female candidates from these challenges," said Hon. Adagala, the Vihiga County MP.

With Kenya heading into a General Election next year, Hon. Adagala urged women not to be discouraged by the challenges but instead seek elective positions at all levels.

"I encourage women never to give up on the struggle. In Kenya we are facing elections next year and I urge women to go for all the political seats. I am running for the gubernatorial seat in Vihiga County and I am confident I will win," she said.

Hon Adagala also pointed to the high cost of political campaigns as another major barrier. She said women often lack the financial resources required to mobilise supporters, communicate with voters and meet logistical expenses.

"Without adequate financial support and institutional backing many women struggle to advance their political careers," she said.

CWP Network Chairperson Hon. Catherine Fife, MP for Ontario in Canada, said removing such barriers requires collective action and stronger support for women seeking to participate fully in political life.

"Empowering women to participate fully and safely in political life would not only strengthen gender equality but also contribute to stronger and more representative democratic institutions across the Commonwealth," she said.

Speaker Wetang'ula, CPA Secretary-General hold talks on strengthening parliamentary democracy



Commonwealth Parliaments Association Secretary General Mr Stephen Twiggy greets Westlands MP Hon. Tim Wanyonyi after a meeting with Speaker Hon. Moses Wetang'ula in Cape Town South Africa

National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula has held talks with Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Secretary-General Stephen Twigg on the sidelines of an international meeting of parliamentarians in Cape Town, South Africa.

The two leaders, who attended the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, discussed ways of strengthening parliamentary democracy and promoting good governance across Commonwealth countries.

Legislators from across the Commonwealth gathered for the week-long conference to deliberate on issues affecting parliamentary institutions and democratic governance.

Hon. Wetang'ula and Twigg explored ways of ensuring that Commonwealth Parliaments continue to promote democratic values while upholding human rights and strengthening effective legislative oversight.

"Our discussions also centred on the critical role of Parliaments in safeguarding democratic principles and ensuring that legislative institutions remain effective in discharging their constitutional responsibilities," Hon. Wetang'ula said.

The Speaker added that the CPA has been critical in bringing together member parliaments to share ideas and best practices that go a long way in enhancing their legislative responsibilities.

Hon. Wetang'ula commended Twigg for his leadership, saying it had helped unite member parliaments and stabilise the global organisation.

Mr. Twigg thanked Speaker Wetang'ula for taking time to engage with him, describing the meeting as productive.

"Kenya is a key member of the CPA and has been consistent in attending annual meetings across the world and making valuable contributions," he said.

The two leaders also exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, including opportunities to deepen cooperation and strengthen relations among Commonwealth legislatures.

Their engagement highlighted the importance of closer collaboration among Parliaments in addressing shared challenges and advancing democratic governance within the Commonwealth.

Hon. Wetang'ula was accompanied by a delegation of Kenyan legislators attending the conference in Cape Town, where they are participating in deliberations with parliamentarians from other Commonwealth member states.



Speaker. Hon. Moses Wetang'ula and Commonwealth Parliaments Association Secretary General Mr Stephen Twiggy in a round table meeting with Kenyan Legislators

Commonwealth Clerks of Parliaments hesitant to adopt proposed SOCATT change of name



National Assembly Clerk Mr Samuel Njoroge making his remarks during SOCATT meeting on the sidelines of the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference at Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa

Clerks from Commonwealth parliaments are hesitant to the renaming of their professional body as part of the ongoing review of the rules governing the organisation.

The officials opposed plans to change the name of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table in Commonwealth Parliaments (SOCATT) to the Association of Clerks and Secretaries of Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures (ACSCPL) during a meeting held on the sidelines of the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Cape Town, South Africa.

National Assembly Clerk Mr. Samuel Njoroge argued that while reforms to the organisation's rules were welcome, changing the name of the long-established body was unnecessary.

"A proposal to change the name is not right. This is a name we are all used to," said Mr Njoroge.

Mr. Njoroge expressed support for the other proposed amendments, including the removal of subscription requirements from the rules and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of officers in the leadership positions within the organisation among others.

His position was supported by Kalipha Mbye, the Clerk of the National Assembly of The Gambia, who said there was no compelling justification for changing the organisation's identity.

"Changing the name of the Society is not a priority. I support the other proposed rule reviews, but the name does not need to be changed," said Mr. Mbye.

The Kenyan Clerk also urged that members be given additional time to consult their respective parliamentary branches before any decision was reached on the proposed amendments.

"I humbly request that you give us time to deliberate on the proposed changes with our branches, as they are also critical to decision-making," he told the meeting.

The Secretary to the National Council of Provinces (NcoP) in South Africa Advocate Modibedi Phindela, who chaired the session referred the matter to the Advisory Committee and member branches for further consideration.

"I knew the proposal to change the name will elicit such discussions. I therefore refer the matter to the Advisory Committee and Branches for their input," he added.

Branches were directed to review the proposed amendments, incorporate their recommendations, and submit a revised document for members to consider before a final decision is made.



National Assembly Clerk Mr. Samuel Njoroge (second left) poses for a photograph with his colleagues from Commonwealth Parliaments after the meeting



Westlands MP raises concern over discrimination of persons with disabilities in government

Westlands MP Hon.Tim Wanyonyi has raised concerns over what he termed as continued discrimination against Persons With Disabilities in government appointments.

Speaking during a meeting on the sidelines of the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference at Cape Town International Convention Centre in South Africa, Hon. Wanyonyi said PWDs have been sidelined despite existence of laws and policies intended to guarantee them rights and inclusion.

"We have seen the President deliberately excluding PWDs in his appointments of senior government officers since he took over office. Such decisions kill the spirit of inclusivity," Hon. Wanyonyi told the meeting.

He added: "We have PWDs who have the qualifications for positions in government but the President bypasses them in his appointments."

The legislator also raised concerns over the violation of a law that allows public servants living with disabilities to retire at the age of 65 instead of 60.

"I have handled many cases of disabled public servants forced to retire at the age of 60 contrary to the law that allows them five more years," he said.

On access to economic opportunities, Hon. Wanyonyi said many persons with disabilities continued to be denied employment and government procurement opportunities despite legal provisions requiring public institutions to reserve a percentage of jobs and tenders for them.

South African MPs, led by Hon. Tsehofatso Chauke, echoed similar concerns, accusing their government of failing to enact comprehensive legislation to address the needs of persons with disabilities and neglecting the implementation of existing policies.

"It is embarrassing that South Africa, a country perceived to be a developed state, has no laws that fix issues affecting PWDs. They have left such unfortunate people on their own," said Hon. Chauke.

She noted that the government department responsible for disability affairs remained among the least funded despite the growing needs of persons with disabilities.

"I am lucky that, as a blind legislator, I can easily access essential services but other ordinary disabled people cannot access basic needs," she said.

Chairing the session, Hon. Dr Marlene Le Roux challenged legislators across the Commonwealth to use their positions in parliament to champion the rights of persons with disabilities and push for stronger laws, policies and oversight mechanisms that promote inclusion and improve their quality of life.



Westlands MP Hon.Tim Wanyonyi making his remarks during 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference at Cape Town



Hon. Tim Wanyonyi closely following the conference discussions

Committee on Delegated Legislation questions KEBS plan to use 'covert operations' in market inspections

Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) officials have been put on the spot over proposed rules that would allow inspectors to carry out what the regulations describe as "covert operations" during market surveillance.

Members of the National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Delegated Legislation questioned the need for the term warning that it could create legal and accountability problems for the standards regulator

The committee, chaired by Ainabkoi MP Hon. Samuel Chepkonga, was scrutinising the draft Standards (Market Surveillance) Regulations, 2026, among several proposed regulations before their publication.

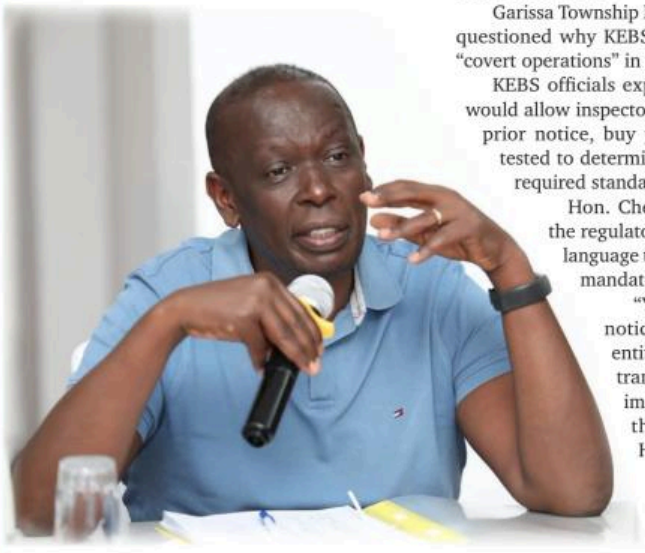
Garissa Township MP Hon. Mohamed Dekow questioned why KEBS needed to use the term "covert operations" in the proposed regulations.

KEBS officials explained that the measure would allow inspectors to visit vendors without prior notice, buy products and have them tested to determine whether they meet the required standards.

Hon. Chepkonga, however, urged the regulator to replace the term with language that clearly reflects its legal mandate.

"You will appear without notice, and KEBS is a public entity that should operate with transparency. You should use impromptu inspections rather than covert operations," Hon. Chepkonga said.

The debate centred on how KEBS can conduct effective market surveillance without compromising transparency and the rights of businesses.



Ainabkoi MP Hon. Samuel Chepkonga who chairs the Committee on Delegated Legislation during a retreat in Mombasa County

Samburu County MP Hon. Pauline Lenguris said the committee needed to understand the reasons behind some of the enforcement measures proposed in the regulations.

She acknowledged that giving traders advance notice of inspections could undermine enforcement because some vendors might change their conduct before inspectors arrive.

Meanwhile, Kilgoris MP Hon. Julius Sunkuli urged KEBS to simplify the language used in the regulations so that ordinary Kenyans can understand their rights and obligations.

Gichugu MP and Committee vice-chairman Hon. Robert Gichimu backed the call, saying the regulations should be accessible to all stakeholders and not only lawyers.

The MPs were considering the draft regulations during a pre-publication scrutiny retreat aimed at determining whether proposed statutory instruments comply with the Constitution, enabling legislation and other written laws.

The committee is also examining the extent to which the proposed rules remain within the powers delegated to the regulator.

The Standards (Market Surveillance) Regulations are among eight sets of draft regulations and orders under scrutiny.

Others are the Standards (Handling of Conditionally Released and Rejected Imports) Regulations, 2026; Standards (Product Certification) Regulations, 2026; Standards (Testing and Designation of Laboratories) Regulations, 2026; and Standards (Scientific and Industrial Metrology) Regulations, 2026.

The committee is also scrutinising the Fertiliser and Animal Foodstuffs (Fertiliser) Regulations, 2026, the Privileges and Immunities (Ford Foundation) Order, 2026, and draft regulations under the Civil Aviation Act.

Defence Committee assesses Kenya Navy readiness and shipbuilding capacity

The Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations has called for sustained investment in the Kenya Navy's operational and technological capabilities to strengthen the country's maritime security and support its growing blue economy.

The Committee made the call during an oversight visit to the Kenya Navy Headquarters in Mombasa, where it assessed the Navy's preparedness to respond to emerging maritime security threats, implementation of capital projects and overall operational capacity.

Committee Chairperson Hon. Nelson Koech (Belgut) said Kenya's maritime domain is a critical strategic and economic asset, given its role in national security, trade and regional stability.

"Kenya's maritime domain represents a critical strategic and economic asset," said Koech, noting that the Navy operates across a vast oceanic area while balancing national defence, economic security and regional stability.

He said evolving maritime challenges, ranging from piracy and geopolitical competition to supply chain disruptions, had increased the importance of Kenya's role in the region.

Hon. Koech emphasized the need for continued investment in modern equipment, surveillance systems, vessels, infrastructure and other critical capabilities to safeguard trade routes, protect national interests and support economic activities within the blue economy.

During the briefing, the Navy highlighted the distinction between sustenance and modernization funding, saying it was critical when assessing the adequacy of its budget allocations.

Officials explained that although defence budget allocations have increased, a substantial share is absorbed by personnel costs and maintenance of existing equipment and infrastructure. As a result, funding available for acquiring new capabilities and modernizing naval operations has grown at a slower pace.

The Committee noted that sustained investment in modernization is necessary to enable the Navy to effectively discharge its constitutional mandate and respond to emerging threats within Kenya's maritime domain.

The oversight team also inspected Kenya Shipyards to assess its operational capacity, project delivery and management of government resources invested in maritime infrastructure.

Officials said the Mombasa and Kisumu shipyards are central to efforts to expand domestic shipbuilding, ship repair and maritime engineering capabilities. The facilities are also expected to reduce reliance on external shipyards and create opportunities for growth in the regional maritime industry.



Members of the Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations Committee led by the Chairperson Hon. Nelson Koech (front row, third from right), are taken round by Kenya Navy officials at the Headquarters in Mombasa as they conducted an oversight visit

MPs call for accelerated digital communication capacity to enhance Parliamentary coverage



The Chairperson of the Committee on Broadcasting and Library, Hon. Epuyo Nanok, speaking during the meeting

Members of the Committee on Broadcasting and Library have called for strengthening Parliament's digital communications architecture to enhance the coverage and dissemination of legislative work.

The Committee, chaired by Hon. Epuyo Nanok, expressed concerns over the operational challenges facing Media Relations Officers who give visibility to Parliamentary operations.

Speaking at a Committee meeting with the Departments of Media Relations and Public Communications to discuss the integration of media and ICT in optimizing parliamentary oversight, Hon. Nanok said empowering the officers with the necessary digital skills and technical support would enhance their ability to document and disseminate Committee proceedings and Members' engagements to the public.

He pointed out that Committees undertake extensive legislative, oversight and public hearings, official events and constituency engagements, which require timely and quality digital coverage.

"Having dedicated digital crew support would enable Committees and their Members to get their legislative work, public hearings and constituency engagements effectively captured and broadcast," Hon. Nanok said.

The lawmakers observed that without professional video documentation and digital dissemination of Parliamentary activities, the actual performance of MPs remains invisible to their constituents, leaving them exposed to public misperception and growing public discontent.

The proposal comes amid calls by lawmakers for enhanced digital communications and for expedited development of strategies to counter miscommunication and disinformation.

Addressing Members of the Committee on behalf of the Director, Speaker's Office, the Deputy Director for Public Communications and Media, Mr. Japhet Muthomi reaffirmed his commitment to maintaining a professional media and communications unit which is empowered to showcase the impact of the National Assembly's undertakings to the electorate.

He acknowledged that the Media Relations department faces a few operational challenges, but undertook to follow up with the management to ensure the department is well facilitated to deliver on its mandate.

Muthomi urged the Committee to consider regulations to govern the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Parliament and to help tackle misinformation, particularly AI-generated media targeting parliamentary proceedings.

Hon. Onesmus Ngogoyo (Kajiado North) commended the two departments' efforts in demystifying complex and controversial legislation such as the Finance Bill and realigning public perceptions.

Weighing in on the discussion, Hon. Samuel Gachobe (Subukia) urged the communications team to devise practical civic awareness strategies that enlighten the public on the specific responsibilities of a Member of Parliament.

Hon. Nanok reiterated that Committee Members cannot effectively champion transparency across the House if the institution's most essential work continues to happen in the digital shadows.



A section of the Committee on Broadcasting and Library pose for a photo after the meeting

engagement activities, including Sittings, At the same time, Mr.

Cohesion Committee tells Irrigation Authority to widen ethnic diversity in its staff establishment



Committee chairperson Hon. Adan Yussuf Haji during the meeting

The National Irrigation Authority has been challenged to widen ethnic representation in its workforce as Parliament pushes State agencies to comply with laws on diversity and equal opportunity.

The National Assembly's Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity said public institutions must ensure their employees reflect the country's ethnic diversity.

Committee chairman Hon. Adan Yussuf Haji (Mandera West) said accounting officers had a responsibility to promote inclusion when recruiting staff.

"All public establishments need to represent the diversity of the people of Kenya in their staff composition, as required by law," Hon. Haji said.

The committee raised the issue during a meeting with officials of the National Irrigation Authority to review the agency's employment diversity and implementation of the requirement to reserve 30 per cent of public procurement opportunities for disadvantaged groups.

Authority chairman Mr. Charles Muasya told MPs that the agency had 306 employees drawn from 17 ethnic communities.

He said the Authority had put in place measures to promote regional balance and national cohesion, noting that no single ethnic community accounted for more than a third of its workforce.

"The Authority is structurally committed to promoting regional balance and national cohesion. Notably, no single ethnic community exceeds one third of the total workforce, as required by law," Mr Muasya said.

MPs welcomed the agency's efforts but said more needed to be done to ensure communities that are not represented also get opportunities.

Committee vice-chairman Hon. Duncan Mathenge (Nyeri Town) said the Authority should broaden its recruitment reach.

"17 out of the close to 50 ethnic groups we have in the country is not very bad, but not enough. You can do better," Hon. Mathenge said.

The Authority's chief executive officer assured the committee that it was taking steps to improve inclusivity and create opportunities for communities that are currently not represented among its employees.

The committee said diversity in public institutions was important in promoting national cohesion and ensuring that public resources and employment opportunities are shared fairly.

It urged State agencies to treat ethnic balance not only as a legal requirement but also as part of efforts to build public institutions that reflect Kenya's diverse population.



Hon. Agnes Pareyio (Narok North) makes a point during the meeting with National Irrigation Authority

Education Committee concludes first week of public participation across 20 Counties

The National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Education has concluded the first week of public participation on the six proposed Education Reform Bills aimed at transforming Kenya's education, training, and research by addressing systemic challenges, improving quality, ensuring equity, and optimising the implementation of the Competency-Based Curriculum.

The exercise carried out across 20 counties saw residents appear before the Committee to give submissions on the Tertiary Education Placement and Funding Bill 2026, the Pre-Service Education and In-service Training Bill, 2026, the Basic Education (Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Kenya National Educational Assessment Council Bill, 2026 and the Kenya National Qualifications Framework (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Across the counties, stakeholders raised a range of issues touching on the structure and management of education institutions, financing, teacher training, learner welfare, curriculum implementation and the governance of education institutions.

A key issue that emerged during the engagements was the proposed structure of Junior Secondary Schools (JSS) and comprehensive schools. While some stakeholders called for JSS to be made autonomous with separate administrative and governance structures, others supported the comprehensive school model, citing continuity, accountability and better utilisation of resources.

Stakeholders also called for increased and timely capitation, with some proposing that learners in both public and private schools benefit from government funding. Concerns were also raised over tertiary education financing, including loan disbursement and repayment terms.



A delegation from the Departmental Committee on Education taking views from residents of Homa Bay County at Tom Mboya University

Teacher development also emerged as a recurring issue, with stakeholders calling for stronger recognition of institutions such as the Kenya Education Management Institute (KEMI) and the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEA) in teacher training and professional development.

Parents and education stakeholders further called for stronger parental participation in education governance, while representatives of learners with special needs sought clearer provisions to ensure their inclusion and access to appropriate support.

The Committee noted the views and recommendations received during the first week, assuring stakeholders that their submissions would be considered and captured in the Committee's report.

The Committee will resume the public participation exercise on Monday, September 21, 2026, continuing its engagement with residents and stakeholders in other parts of the country.

A key issue that emerged during the [illegible] benefit from government funding. Concerns

Quotes of The Week



Every time we speak about Kenya's journey towards Singapore and becoming a First World country, we must remember that the foundation of this transformation is skills. The country needs relevant and practical skills that respond to its development needs and enable citizens to participate in the economy. These skills should go beyond basic training and equip young people with knowledge and innovation to drive national development. As we pursue efforts to transform the country and achieve First World standards, we must recognise that education is the software that powers this transformation. Without quality education, progress and development will remain a pipe dream.

- Hon. John Kiarie (Dagoretti South)



As Members of Parliament, we will make laws and formulate policies to stop manufacturers and institutions producing fake alcohol and other harmful substances. However, the bigger challenge is that we cannot legislate morals and intentions. My concern is that nightclubs are located near churches, estates and places where children are raised. Therefore, there is a missing link not only in Government operations, but also within society. We are watching a generation drain away. During last year's Kenya Defence Forces recruitment, alcoholism, drugs and substance abuse contributed to disqualifications. The situation is worse when girls and young mothers are involved. This matter deserves urgent attention.

-Hon. Jematiah Sergon (Baringo County)



As we approach the 2027 elections, it is time for all of us political leaders and young people alike to reflect deeply on the kind of politics we want to build. Competitive politics should not be a platform for threats, violence, insults, injuries, or the use of young people as political gangs. Goonism is not politics; it is a weakness of ideas and a threat to our democracy. Young people should not allow themselves to be used as political weapons by politicians pursuing their personal interests. As leaders, we have a responsibility to set an example of discipline, civility, and respect for political differences.

-Hon. Fatuma Masito (Kwale County)



My Constituency has four hydropower generating stations, yet only 10 per cent of our people are connected to electricity generated from our area. Residents keep asking how they can remain in darkness while power is supplied to other constituencies. This is difficult to explain. We need answers from Kenya Power and the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC). Schools without electricity also require urgent attention, as students need power to use their learning gadgets. Solar panels installed earlier are no longer working because they are not serviced. Something must be done urgently to improve connectivity and ensure equitable access.

-Hon. Joshua Mwalyo (Masinga)



I represent a rather different constituency, where most of my constituents, particularly women, are single and independently employed. Many work in markets and rely on self-employment for their livelihoods. Let it not be lost to us that a few days ago, the President said that once a woman gets pregnant, she can start receiving payment. I believe it would also be beneficial if women working in markets received a stipend during maternity leave to support them during that period. No woman is more deserving than another. They also deserve support as they breastfeed their children for six months. This is something that should be considered generally.

- Hon. Amos Maina (Starehe)



We need to meet with the Energy Cabinet Secretary and his Principal Secretary on last-mile electricity connectivity. We want to understand the conflict between REREC and Kenya Power, which has caused many challenges. All teams handling electricity matters should explain the main issues and provide solutions. We also have contractors who have left projects incomplete. For three years, masts raised in my constituency have remained unfinished despite public resources being spent. Some contractors are rude when questioned about delays. Such contractors should be held accountable and, where necessary, replaced. We cannot have infrastructure standing idle while communities remain without electricity and face insecurity.

- Hon. Beatrice Elachi (Dagoretti North)



I also want to speak on the issue of electricity. Some of us feel that our areas are not treated as part of Kenya because we are in darkness. In my county, you can go a week without power. How does this promote business and development? Let us not keep blaming contractors. Who is contracting them? If a contractor cannot perform, the contract should be terminated and given to someone competent. Our people should not suffer because of incompetent contractors while others can deliver. This needs urgent attention because of insecurity. We are approaching elections, and we need every village lit.

- Hon. Beatrice Adagala (Vihiga County)



History teaches us that democracy is not lost in one dramatic moment. It is eroded when good people remain silent in the face of injustice. As legislators, we must defend the Constitution, uphold the rule of law, and protect the rights and freedoms of every Kenyan, regardless of political affiliation. The recent rise in goon culture, allegedly under the watch of institutions mandated to protect citizens, is deeply concerning. Such actions threaten democratic values, public safety, and the rule of law. They must be condemned by all leaders and citizens. We must remain vigilant and speak against injustice whenever it occurs.

-Hon. Sammy Kamau (Ol Kalou)



Community Health Promoters (CHPs) are the first point of contact between millions of Kenyan households and the health system. They educate families on health matters, conduct disease surveillance, and promote maternal and child healthcare. They identify illnesses and link patients to health facilities. However, CHPs cannot deliver quality services without adequate facilitation. Many lack proper training, working tools, supervision and reliable remuneration. Although county governments are mandated to support them, some do not provide adequate training, equipment or timely payments. CHPs should receive reasonable stipends, proper supervision and necessary working tools to enable them to provide effective services and improve healthcare at the community level.



As Parliament, we have a critical role in ensuring that resources allocated to women's empowerment reach the intended beneficiaries and deliver meaningful, sustainable impact. Women at the grassroots, particularly those engaged in agriculture, informal businesses and table banking, require support to build sustainable livelihoods and improve their families' wellbeing. A policy without adequate resources cannot achieve its intended outcomes. We must therefore work collectively to ensure that the National Policy on Women's Economic Empowerment becomes a framework for action. This will expand economic opportunities, strengthen livelihoods and improve the lives of women and families across Kenya, especially in rural communities.

- Hon. David Ndakwa (Malava)

-Hon. Mishi Mboko (Likoni)

CLIQUE & CLICKS



Speaker Hon. Moses Wetang'ula (third right) and his colleagues from Commonwealth Parliaments could not hold back their laughter while in an off the cuff meeting on the sidelines of the conference



Commonwealth Parliaments Speakers among them Kenya's Hon Moses Wetang'ula (centre) during the official opening of the conference at Cape Town International Convention Centre in South Africa

Kitui Central MP Hon. Makali Mulu walks to the podium to deliver his speech on the closing day of the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference at Cape Town International Convention Centre in South Africa





A section of Kenya's delegation to the just concluded 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Cape Town South Africa pose for a photograph during the closing ceremony



National Assembly Clerk Mr. Samuel Njoroge and Senate Deputy Director Mr. Lawrence Amolo enjoy a light moment after a remark by a colleague during the CPA conference



Chairperson of the Education Committee, Hon. Julius Melly, signs the visitors' book at Tom Mboya University. He is flanked by Committee Members and the Vice Chancellor



A wide view of the Chairperson of the Education Committee, Hon. Julius Melly, addressing education stakeholders and residents of Kericho County



Members of the Education Committee pose for a photo with education stakeholders after receiving their views on the proposed education reforms' Bills

BUNGE MASHINANI

KERICHO COUNTY

Hon Kemei steps up empowerment programmes in Kericho County

Kericho County MP Hon. Beatrice Kemei, through the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF), has stepped up empowerment programmes aimed at improving the lives of residents and alleviating poverty.

Hon. Kemei held an engagement with residents at Sokohuru Grounds in Soliat Ward, Soin Sub-County, where she distributed cheques, tents, chairs and sporting equipment to various groups.

"During the meeting, we also gave out mattresses and blankets to poor families," said Hon. Kemei, pledging to extend a helping hand to more needy families in the area.

She noted that, under her leadership, she has supported numerous community groups, particularly women's groups, to boost their businesses, improve household incomes and support their families.

The MP reaffirmed her commitment to empowering residents through initiatives that promote self-reliance, improve livelihoods and help alleviate poverty across the county.



Hon. Beatrice Kemei speaking to members of groups that benefitted from the support she gave out



Beneficiaries of the empowerment programme initiated by Hon. Beatrice Kemei display their goodies during the event

Sabatia schools receive major infrastructure boost under rehabilitation programme

SABATIA CONSTITUENCY

Givudianyi Comprehensive School in Wodanda Ward, Sabatia Constituency, has undergone a major facelift, transforming its infrastructure under the schools' rehabilitation programme funded by the Sabatia NG-CDF through the leadership of Hon. Clement Sloya.

The school now boasts a new look, with modern classrooms constructed to provide a conducive learning and teaching environment for pupils and teachers, with the aim of improving academic standards.

"Sabatia residents can now see my ambitious programme of improving the infrastructure of our learning institutions being implemented. My agenda is to have all schools undergo infrastructure development," said Hon. Sloya.

Mukingi Secondary School has also benefited from the Safaricom Foundation's infrastructure development programme, which has seen the construction of an administration block, classrooms and ablution blocks, alongside the supply of desks to the classrooms.

The MP said the NG-CDF has also funded the construction of boreholes and the installation of high-rise solar-powered water tanks to improve access to water in schools and surrounding communities while Gaigedi Sub-Location has also benefited from the construction of a new office for the Assistant Chief, providing a better working environment and supporting the administration of the area.





Modern classrooms constructed at Givudianyi Comprehensive School in Sabatia constituency under school infrastructure development programme unveiled by Hon Clement Sloya (left) learners of the school in a new classroom (inset) Hon. Sloya

Hon. Kailemia rolls out water projects to improve access

MERU COUNTY



Hon Elizabeth Kailemia welcomed by jubilant members of the Katimugiro CBO Water project before donating water pipes to the organisation

Meru County MP Hon. Elizabeth Kailemia is implementing an ambitious water project aimed at ensuring that the majority of residents have access to clean water at their doorsteps.

Through funding from the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF), the MP donated water pipes to the Katimugiro CBO Water Project in Mitarune Village, Nkuene Ward, South Imenti.

The Kiamiogo Water Association in Kibirichia Ward, Buuri Sub-County, also benefited from water pipes. The MP said the pipes will help enhance the supply of water from existing sources to households in the area.

"Women are toiling by walking long distances to fetch water from water sources in the villages. The project will cushion them from such hard work, while also ensuring that my people consume clean and treated water to curb waterborne diseases," said Hon. Kailemia.

The MP also donated seats and tents to the Kambakia Youth Forum to support its business ventures.



Meru County MP Hon. Elizabeth Kailemia handing over water pipes to officials of Kiamiogo Water Association and Water Supply Groups in parts of Meru County to boost connectivity to households

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Lawmakers call for police action over rising political violence ahead of 2027 polls

The National Assembly has called on the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security to summon the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration following an increase in political violence across the country.

This emerged after Gilgil MP, Hon. Martha Wangari, sought a Statement on the Floor of the House, calling on the Government to account for recent violent clashes, destruction of property witnessed in political rallies in Homa Bay, Nyandarua and Nakuru Counties.



Gilgil MP, Hon. Martha Wangari speaking in the National Assembly

Hon. Wangari warned that what began as isolated incidents, has spiraled into organised full blown violence involving crude weapons. She noted that the clashes, which have resulted in deaths and injuries to both civilians and police officers, are a threat to national cohesion ahead of the 2027 General Election.

"The consequences of political violence are far reaching," Hon. Wangari stated adding, "It is regrettable that despite the recurrence of these incidents, decisive action has yet to be taken to bring the perpetrators to account."

Suba North MP, Hon. Millie Odhiambo revealed alarming details from the recent Homa Bay clashes, where there were reports of cases of sexual violence against women, deaths, and the destruction of property.

Eldas MP, Hon. Adan Keynan and Samburu West MP, Hon. Naisula Lesuuda both warned against normalising political goonism, cautioning that unchecked violence risks undermining the rule of law, deterring investors, while damaging Kenya's international image.

Responding to the concerns, the Administration and Internal Security Committee Chairperson, Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West), confirmed that the Interior Cabinet Secretary is scheduled to appear before the Committee.

Hon. Tongoyo assured the House that the inquiry into political violence would take top priority, with a comprehensive response to be tabled in the National Assembly.



Minority Whip and Suba North MP Hon. Millie Odhiambo Mabona making a contribution in the House

This week in history

When parliament's face changed!



Philip Leakey during his successful campaign for the Lang'ata parliamentary seat in 1979

During this week in September 1979, Kenya's National Assembly recorded a small but significant moment in the country's parliamentary history.

Philip Leakey was elected Member of Parliament for Lang'ata, becoming the first Kenyan of European descent to be elected to Parliament after independence. On the same occasion, Krishan Chander Gautama was elected for Parklands, bringing a Kenyan of Asian origin into the House. The National Assembly's own historical record documents the two elections as part of the evolution of representation in Parliament.

Hon. Leakey, the journey to Parliament had not started in 1979. He had contested the Lang'ata seat five years earlier and finished second before returning to the race and winning in 1979. He subsequently represented Lang'ata until 1992 and served in several Government portfolios.

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