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Monday, September 28th, 2026 to Monday, October 5th, 2026

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Deputy Speaker leads MPs in championing for gender-responsive lawmaking, inclusive public participation



Deputy Speaker Hon. Gladys J. Boss addressing the participants during the opening session of the ILGRP Regional Forum 2026 at the Canadian High Commission.



Minority Whip and Suba North MP, Hon. Millie addresses participants of the IILGRP Regional Forum 2026

Hon. Millie Odhiambo roots for digital inclusion to drive responsive lawmaking

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E-COPY

Plenary

Uphold unity and constitutional values: Speaker Wetang'ula urges Kenyans



National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula receives a copy of a book on the struggles for Kenya's independence by freedom fighter Hon. Ochieng Oneko from his son Mr Dick Achieng Aneko in his office

National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula has urged Kenyans to emulate the sacrifices made by the country's founding fathers and uphold national unity and constitutional values.

Hon. Wetang'ula said freedom fighters made immense sacrifices to liberate the country from colonial rule and secure freedom for future generations. He called on Kenyan politicians to draw lessons from the liberation heroes by serving the country with commitment, integrity and patriotism.

"As Kenyans, we need to look back and learn from the sacrifices made by our founding fathers because a nation that does not know its history cannot define its future," he said.

The Speaker made the remarks when he hosted Mr. Dick Achieng' Aneko, son of the late freedom fighter and former Member of Parliament Hon. Ramogi Achieng' Oneko, who paid him a courtesy call at his office in Parliament Buildings last week.

Mr. Aneko, on behalf of the late Hon. Ochieng' Oneko's family, presented three copies of a book titled "The Price of Freedom", which highlights Oneko's journey and sacrifices during the struggle for Kenya's independence, anchored on justice, land rights, democracy and national unity.

"Two of the books will be kept in the National Assembly Library for reference on the struggle for independence and liberation of our country by our founding fathers. The books will go a long way in inspiring current and future lawmakers to guard our democratic heritage with courage and integrity," the Speaker said.

The Speaker thanked the family of Hon. Oneko, one of Kenya's Kapenguria Six freedom heroes, for the souvenir, noting that there was much Kenyans, including politicians, could learn from his sacrifices and unwavering love and loyalty to the country.

He observed that some of the challenges facing the country were occasioned by leaders failing to serve the electorate with commitment and integrity.

The Speaker said Kenya could make tremendous strides in political and economic development if leaders put the interests of the country and people they serve ahead of their own.

Mr. Aneko thanked the Speaker for hosting him and wished him success in his role of leading the August House in shaping legislation for the Republic of Kenya.

"My father walked these very halls of Parliament, driven by an unyielding belief in justice, land rights, democracy and national unity," said Aneko.

He added: "May these chronicles of his sacrifice, and those of his fellow liberators, serve as a constant reminder of the heavy price paid for Kenya's freedom."

The Speaker once again challenged young leaders aspiring to political office to respect senior leaders, noting that hurling insults at them would not propel them to positions of leadership.

Hon. Oneko was first elected as the Nakuru Town constituency MP during Kenya's first post-independence parliamentary elections in 1963 to 1966.

He returned to parliament during Kenya's historic first multi-party general elections in 1992 under the FORD-Kenya party, serving one term until 1997.

FROM PAGE 1

Deputy Speaker leads MPs in championing for gender-responsive lawmaking, inclusive public participation



Deputy Speaker Hon. Gladys Boss (third right) Canadian High Commissioner to Kenya, H.E. Joshua Tabah, (second right) and the Executive Director, Programmes Parliamentary Centre, Mr. Ivo Balinov (third left) join the delegates of the ILGRP forum hosted by the Canadian High Commission on Wednesday September 23, 2026

Members of the National Assembly have reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that legislation, public spending, oversight and citizen participation reflect the different realities of the people they are intended to serve.

While officially opening the Regional Forum on Inclusive Legislatures for Gender-Responsive Policies (ILGRP) in Nairobi, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Hon. Gladys Boss said inclusive governance must move beyond representation to influence how Parliament makes decisions and responds to the needs of society.

She underscored the need to embed gender-responsive approaches across the work of Parliament, from scrutiny of legislation and national budgets to oversight and public participation, while ensuring that progress made through partnerships is firmly anchored within parliamentary systems and practice.

The two-day forum brought together legislators and parliamentary officials from Kenya, Ghana and Togo, alongside development partners, to share experiences and practical approaches developed through the ILGRP initiative.

Speaking at the event which was hosted the Canadian High Commission, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly Mrs. Serah Kioko, noted that Parliament has already translated lessons from the programme into institutional tools covering research, legislative scrutiny, budgeting, oversight and public participation.

She highlighted the development of *Maoni Hub*, a digital participation platform currently being piloted, as part of efforts to broaden opportunities for citizens to engage with Parliament. She, however, stressed that technology must widen access rather than create new barriers to participation.

"Technology must not become another gatekeeper. It must become a bridge," she said. Canadian High Commissioner to Kenya, H.E. On his part, Canadian High Commissioner H.E. Joshua Tabah noted that strong legislatures are central to sustainable development because they connect citizens' priorities with laws, public resources and accountability.

The High Commissioner observed that Canada was happy to support the programme. "Canada is proud to have supported this $9.25 million initiative with the Parliament of Kenya, Ghana and Togo", he stated.

He further pointed out that the support offered through this program is consistent with Canada's broad engagement with Africa. "Canada's African strategy seeks deeper, mutually beneficial partnerships across economic cooperation, sustainable development, peace and security, democracy and shared interests internationally", he observed.

The forum gave participating legislatures an opportunity to showcase the project's innovations in citizen participation and accountability by demonstrating how the Parliaments of Kenya, Ghana and Togo are leveraging on evidence-based frameworks, and institutional reforms to amplify citizen voice, strengthen CSO-Parliament engagement and embed gender-responsive governance practices.

the National Assembly Hon. Gladys Boss said governance practices.

Hon. Millie Odhiambo roots for digital inclusion to drive responsive lawmaking

Minority Whip Hon. Millie Odhiambo has advocated for greater use of digital platforms to deepen citizen participation in parliamentary processes, saying technology is increasingly providing an avenue for Parliament to reach citizens beyond traditional physical consultations.

Speaking during the second day of the Inclusive Legislatures for Gender-Responsive Policies project (ILGRP) Regional Forum, Hon. Odhiambo challenged assumptions that people in rural and remote areas cannot access digital parliamentary initiatives.



Minority Whip and Suba North MP, Hon. Millie addresses participants of the IILGRP Regional Forum 2026at the Canadian High Commission

Hon. Odhiambo highlighted the Parliament of Kenya's latest innovation for public participation "*Maoni Hub*" as an innovation that can strengthen direct engagement between citizens and Parliament.

The Suba North legislator further noted that the tool has the potential to be expand the public participation process, particularly among young people, who she noted, are fond of translating Bills and Acts into plain language, making it easier for them to channel the views to relevant Parliamentary Committees while providing citizens with feedback on how their contributions have been considered using artificial intelligence.

She linked the need for stronger citizen engagement to lessons from the 2024 Finance Bill protests, noting that public frustration was heightened by perceptions that citizens were not being heard.

"Genuine inclusion should therefore go beyond the number of women or other groups represented in Parliament to include accessibility to parliamentary processes, diversity of voices in policymaking and the extent to which legislation reflects the lived realities of citizens," Hon. Millie said.

The Minority Whip also called for Parliament to allocate domestic resources towards gender and inclusion programmes rather than relying solely on external partners.

Representing the Speaker at the Forum, the Deputy Speaker Hon. Gladys Boss reaffirmed Parliament's support for the initiative and commended participants for the progress made during the engagement. She noted that she had received commendable feedback throughout the forum.

Addressing participants earlier, the Parliamentary Joint Services Director-General Mr. Clement Nyandiere similarly emphasised the importance of sustaining the innovations developed under the project beyond donor support.

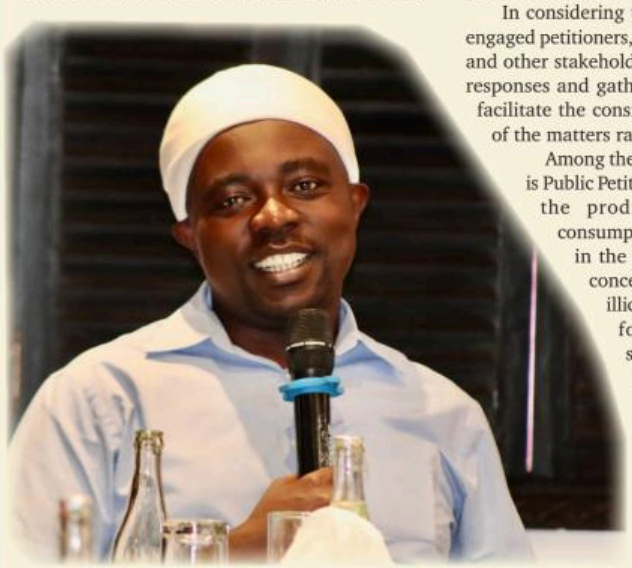
He highlighted the Gender-Responsive Public Participation Toolkit and the digital Maoni Hub, noting that the latter could help reduce the logistical demands of nationwide physical consultations while taking into account digital literacy, connectivity and accessibility challenges.

"Guidelines provide direction, tools provide practical application, technology provides the scale, but institutional ownership provides sustainability," Mr. Nyandiere noted.

The Director General urged the Research Directorate, ICT Department and the Clerks' Chambers of both Houses to work together to institutionalise the gains made under the project and to ensure that the knowledge, technology and tools developed are transferred to subsequent Parliaments.

Public Petitions Committee set to table nine reports as National Assembly resumes

The Public Petitions Committee is set to table nine reports this week as the House resumes sittings following the long recess, bringing several matters of national interest before the National Assembly for consideration.



Committee Chairperson Hon. Muchangi Karemba addresses Committee Members a session to adopt the reports

The reports follow a report-writing and adoption retreat held by the Committee earlier this month, during which Members considered, reviewed and adopted reports arising from petitions submitted by members of the public.

In considering the petitions, the Committee engaged petitioners, relevant Government entities and other stakeholders to obtain comprehensive responses and gather information necessary to facilitate the consideration and determination of the matters raised.

Among the reports scheduled for tabling is Public Petition No. 2 of 2026, concerning the production, distribution and consumption of illicit alcoholic brews in the country. The petition raises concerns over the proliferation of illicit alcohol and its implications for public health, public safety and the wellbeing of communities.

The Committee also adopted the report on Petition No. 8 of 2026, which concerns the proposed amalgamation of the Civil Service non-contributory pension scheme and the Public Service Superannuation Fund.

Also ready for tabling is Petition No. 9 of 2026, concerning unpaid salary arrears and terminal dues owed to former employees of Uchumi Supermarket. The petition follows concerns over outstanding payments due to affected former employees.

Another report, arising from Petition No. 10 of 2026, addresses strengthening oversight, transparency and intergenerational equity in public debt governance. The petition highlights broader concerns regarding the management, accountability and sustainability of public debt.

Other reports adopted by the Committee include Petition No. 13 of 2026, concerning the establishment of a national police firearms digital detection and tracking system, and Petition No. 15 of 2026, regarding succession law and the administration of estates in Kenya.

Speaking during the meeting, Committee Chairperson Hon. Muchangi Karemba (Runyenjes) said the adoption of the reports marked an important step in the Committee's consideration and resolution of petitions submitted by members of the public on matters of national importance.

He said the process demonstrates the Committee's commitment to ensuring citizens' petitions receive due consideration and that issues of public concern are subjected to parliamentary scrutiny.

Lawmaker seeks electricity subsidies for export crops to boost global edge



Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba

A motion seeking to establish a targeted national power subsidy for export-oriented agricultural production is before the National Assembly.

The motion sponsored by, Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba (Githunguri), calls on the Executive to cushion local farmers, cooperatives and processors from soaring electricity costs that continue to threaten Kenya's dominant position in the global market.

The lawmaker underscored the critical role of agriculture as the backbone of the national economy, highlighting key foreign exchange earners including tea, coffee, cut flowers, avocados, macadamia, and cashew nuts.

"Agriculture remains the backbone of Kenya's economy, contributing substantially to GDP, rural employment, and foreign exchange earnings... these commodities position Kenya as a global leader in cut-flower exports, and one of Africa's largest suppliers of avocados, tea, and coffee," Hon. Wamuchomba stated.

The motion comes at a pivotal juncture for the sector, following the landmark rollout of duty-free access to the Chinese market for Kenyan agricultural exports in May 2026. However, lawmakers expressed concern that high power tariffs risk neutralizing these lucrative trade advantages.

"Noting that the commencement of duty-free access to the Chinese market presents a historic opportunity to expand export earnings and create thousands of rural jobs, this House is concerned that the high cost of electricity continues to erode our competitiveness," the Member argued. "Commercial and industrial rates in Kenya significantly exceed those of regional competitors such as Ethiopia and Tanzania, inflating the costs of critical operations such as irrigation, cold-chain storage, drying, and value addition."

The House heard that high power tariffs have discouraged smallholder farmers and agro-processors from adopting modern technologies—such as solar-assisted irrigation and energy-efficient cold rooms—leaving them vulnerable to global price shocks and climate change.

While acknowledging existing frameworks such as the National Energy Policy 2025–2034, the motion pointed out a glaring gap in targeted interventions:

"Cognizant that affordable and reliable power is a critical input, and acknowledging that no specific mechanisms currently exist on subsidized electricity tariffs exclusively for export production... this House resolves that the Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum formulate a National Policy on Power Subsidies for Export-Oriented Agricultural Production."

The proposed policy framework mandates the introduction of tiered electricity tariff subsidies, including off-peak and time-of-use rates, tailored specifically for registered producers, cooperatives, and processors across the designated export value chains.

Nairobi stakeholders demand legal recognition for informal, refugee schools in new Education Bills



Session Chair, Hon. Abdul Haro, and Kibra MP, Hon. Peter Orero, receiving a presentation from a participant

Stakeholders in Nairobi County on Friday, 25 September 2026 called for education reforms that promote inclusion and equitable access to learning, with particular emphasis on children in informal settlements, refugees, learners with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

Their views were presented during the fifth day of public participation on the proposed Education Reform Bills at County Hall, Nairobi. The session was chaired by Mandera South MP, Hon. Abdul Haro.

During the engagements, the Muslim Education Council called for the proposed Basic Education Bill to explicitly recognise the 2-6-3-3 education structure and Alternative Provision of Basic Education and Training (APBET)

while urging the Committee to introduce flexibility as an additional guiding principle of the education system.

The United APBET Schools Association similarly called for APBET institutions to be recognised in the Bill and provided for in matters of registration, capitation and bursaries. The Association cautioned that repeal of existing legislation should not result in the loss of administrative gains already made by APBET institutions.

Hon. Antony Oluoch, while giving his views, also called for APBET to be mainstreamed into the proposed legislation, saying it should be treated as an aspect of public education rather than private education.

"APBET is not an attempt to create a third tier of education. It is a way to mainstream APBET so that they can receive funding by government," Hon. Oluoch said.

Budget Champions Nairobi called for specific provisions for refugee and asylum-seeking learners, including stateless and displaced children, while the Westlands Peace and Integration Project called for recognition and support of refugee learning centres and children affected by gender-based violence.

Refugee Women further called for a clear pathway for registration of qualified refugee teachers and recognition of their professional qualifications to enable them to contribute to the education sector.

Stakeholders representing learners with disabilities called for accessible learning environments and stronger support for vulnerable learners, while Cradle called for protection measures for intersex children, learners with incarcerated parents and street-connected children.

The Parents Association called for an independent National Parents Association and stronger parental empowerment and engagement, while CEMASTEA called for its role as an institution responsible for in-service teacher training to be anchored in the Basic Education Bill and the institution made independent.

Stakeholders also raised concerns over tertiary education financing, calling for clear provisions on scholarships and grants, timely disbursement of funds, fair loan repayment mechanisms and safeguards to ensure vulnerable learners are not unnecessarily burdened by debt.

Other stakeholders who made submissions included the Christian Council of Elders, Kenya Private Schools Association, Nairobi County Education Board, Education Stakeholders Association of Kenya, NCCK, IPNED, Catholic Diocese of Nairobi, Evangelical Alliance of Kenya, National Association of Christian Chaplains, JSS Representatives, KNUT, KEPSHA, KESSHA, Elimu Bora Working Group, Mtoto News International, Association of Religious Practitioners Professionals, Home Education Reforms Initiatives and Mathare Light of Hope Away from Home, among others.

The Committee noted the concerns and recommendations raised by stakeholders and assured participants that their views would be considered and captured in its report.

of Basic Education and Training (ABET);

Diaspora Committee pushes for stronger training of migrant workers

The Diaspora and Migrant Workers Committee has called for stronger coordination among government agencies and other stakeholders to ensure Kenyans seeking jobs abroad are adequately trained and protected before leaving the country.

The Committee made the call during discussions with the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) on Friday on ways to strengthen pre-departure training for migrant workers.

Members reviewed the existing training framework, raising concerns about the quality of some training institutions, curriculum reviews and the need to ensure that training responds to the realities workers face in destination countries.

Committee chairperson Hon. Lydia Haika (Taita Taveta) said the welfare of migrant workers could not be addressed by one institution alone, requiring closer cooperation between NITA, government agencies, recruitment firms, training institutions and Kenyan missions abroad.

"We recognise that the welfare of migrant workers involves many institutions. Effective cooperation between NITA, the relevant government agencies, recruitment agencies, training institutions and our missions abroad is therefore important," Ms Haika said.

NITA chairman David Musila said the Authority's role in regulating industrial training and accrediting training institutions was critical in preparing workers for employment outside the country.

"Behind every diaspora remittance is a young worker whose safety abroad depends on how we prepare them for their deployment abroad," Mr Musila said.



Members of the Diaspora Affairs and Migrant Workers Committee pose for a group photo after touring the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) Mombasa campus. They are, Hon Zamzam Mohamed (Mombasa Couny) Hon Mishi Mboko (Likoni), CommitteeChairperson Hon Lydia Haika (Taita Taveta County), Hon Ruweida Obo (Lamu East) Hon. Pamela Njoki (Embu County), Hon Titus Lotee (Kacheliba) and Hon. Charity Kathambi (Njoro)

The discussions also focused on the review of pre-departure training curricula, with MPs seeking to establish whether industry stakeholders in Kenya and destination countries are adequately consulted before changes are made.

Members said training should equip workers with practical skills and knowledge relevant to the countries where they are headed, including the cultural and working environments they are likely to encounter.

The Committee also raised concerns about the condition of some training institutions. Ms Haika said previous inspections by the Committee had exposed shortcomings in some facilities, raising questions about the quality of training offered to prospective migrant workers.

"Previous Committee inspections had revealed poor conditions in some training institutions, raising serious concerns about the quality of training offered in these institutions," she said.

Likoni MP Hon. Mishi Mboko proposed the establishment of mobile training centres to take training closer to Kenyans living in marginalised and remote areas where permanent training centres have not been established.

The proposal is intended to widen access to pre-departure training and ensure that distance does not prevent prospective migrant workers from receiving the necessary preparation.

The Committee also toured the NITA training complex in Mombasa, where MPs interacted with trainees, reviewed courses offered and inspected a recently completed Arabic Model House used for the Training of Trainers programme.

The facility, launched by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, provides a simulated cultural and technical environment for preparing workers for domestic and hospitality jobs in the Gulf region.

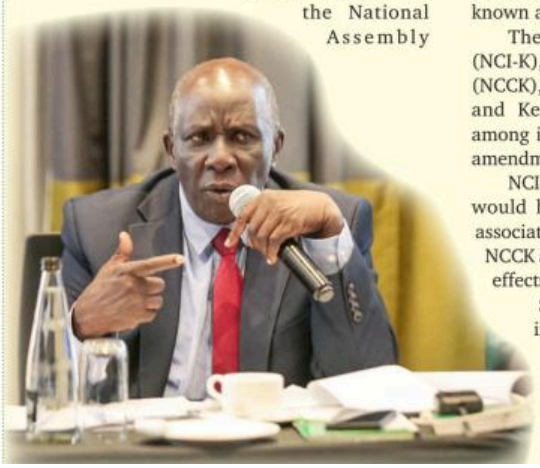
The engagement comes amid growing emphasis on the need to better prepare Kenyans seeking employment abroad, particularly those travelling to countries where differences in language, culture, labour practices and working conditions can present challenges.

The Committee said continued collaboration among institutions would be necessary to strengthen the migration process and safeguard the interests of Kenyan workers from recruitment and training to deployment and employment abroad.

Stakeholders disagree over changes to tobacco control law

Stakeholders sharply disagreed over proposed changes to the tobacco control law, with health and public interest organisations supporting tighter regulations while players in hospitality sectors warned that some provisions could increase costs and create overlapping regulatory requirements.

The divergent views emerged during submissions to the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Health on the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Bill, 2024, sponsored by Nominated Senator Catherine Mumma.



The Bill seeks to amend the Tobacco Control Act, 2007, by strengthening regulations governing the production, sale, advertising and use of tobacco and nicotine products, including nicotine pouches and electronic cigarettes, commonly known as vapes.

The National Cancer Institute of Kenya (NCI-K), National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), Council of Governors, National Treasury and Kenya Law Reform Commission were among institutions that supported the proposed amendments.

NCI-K said stronger tobacco control measures would help protect the public from diseases associated with tobacco and nicotine products. NCCK also supported the Bill, citing the harmful effects of tobacco on individuals and society.

Several stakeholders backed a proposal to increase the minimum age for purchasing tobacco and nicotine products from 18 to 21 years.

However, representatives of the hospitality and entertainment industry raised concerns about the proposed licensing and registration requirements.

The Bar, Hotel and Liquor Traders Association of Kenya (BAHLITA) said the proposed framework could duplicate existing national and county regulations. Secretary General Boniface Gachoka warned that different licensing requirements across the 47 counties could result in varying fees and compliance obligations for businesses.

The Pubs, Entertainment and Restaurant Association of Kenya (PERAK) said its members already operate in a highly regulated environment and urged the Committee to consider the practical impact of additional requirements.

Other organisations, including British American Tobacco Kenya, the Retail Trade Association of Kenya, Kenya Private Sector Alliance, Kenya Association of Manufacturers and Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, also opposed some provisions of the Bill.

Committee Chairperson Dr James Nyikal (Seme) said the Committee would consider all the views presented, noting that tobacco control affects not only health but also trade, industry and legal sectors.

Committee Chairperson Dr James Nyikal during the meeting with stakeholders



Dagoretti South MP Hon. Kiarie leads push to modernise Kenya's scouting rules as Nyeri eyes a global role

Parliament is set to play a key role in modernising Kenya's scouting laws, with World Scout Parliamentary Union (WSPU) Global President and Dagoretti South MP Hon. John Kiarie calling for reforms to align the movement with the 2010 Constitution and devolved governance.

Speaking during the commissioning of the newly gazetted WSPU Board, Hon. Kiarie said Kenya's scouting legal framework, dating back to 1963, requires review to reflect the country's current governance structure, including county governments.

He said Parliament should provide the legislative, policy and budgetary support needed to strengthen scouting and expand its contribution to youth development.

"We must take it upon ourselves to bring the laws of this scouting movement up to date," Hon. Kiarie said, urging the new board to translate its mandate into tangible reforms.

Kenya Scouts Association Executive Director Poppins Misoe called for stronger collaboration between Parliament, county governments and youth institutions to support scouting programmes across the country.

The leaders highlighted scouting's role in nurturing discipline, leadership, teamwork and responsible citizenship among young people, particularly through schools.

Attention was also drawn to Nyeri County, the historical home and final resting place of scouting founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell and his wife, Lady Olive Baden-Powell. Leaders said the county could leverage this heritage to position itself as a global scouting hub.

Nyeri Governor Hon. Mutai Kahiga pledged the county's cooperation with the WSPU and urged leaders to uphold the values associated with the scouting movement.

The new board, chaired by Senator Tabitha Maureen Mutinda, includes legislators, senior government officials and other stakeholders. Bungoma County Assembly's Hon. Job Mukoyandali, an executive member, pledged to promote scouting across county assemblies and support its integration into local legislation.

The board has been tasked with turning its new mandate into practical reforms and stronger national and international partnerships.



Hon. John Kiarie, Senator Tabitha Mutinda, Nyeri Governor Mutai Kahiga and Kenya Scouts Association Executive Director Poppins Misoe pose for a photo after discussions on strengthening Kenya's scouting movement through legislative, policy and institutional support

National Assembly approves 10-year National Energy Policy

The National Assembly has adopted a major report approving Sessional Paper No. 5 of 2026 on the National Energy Policy, setting a 10-year roadmap to transform the country's power sector.

The policy approved on August 18, 2026 replaces the 2018 framework focuses on expanding renewable energy, clean cooking, and modern grid infrastructure, while establishing regulatory pathways for emerging technologies such as electric mobility, green hydrogen, battery storage, and nuclear energy.

Moving the Motion, Hon. Geoffrey Mulanya (Nambale) emphasized that while Kenya boasts an impressive energy profile, structural gaps persist on the ground. Kenya is currently the world's sixth-largest producer of geothermal power with an installed capacity of 985 megawatts (MW), and renewable energy accounts for 82% of its total 3,081 MW generation capacity.

"Over 65 percent of households still cook with firewood and charcoal, and 25 percent of Kenyans still have no electricity. This Policy will close this gap between our achievements and reality in our constituencies," said Hon. Mulanya.

MPs recommended leveraging the newly enacted National Infrastructure Fund Act, 2026, alongside Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and climate finance, rather than relying solely on exchequer allocations.

Seconding the Motion, Hon. David Gikaria (Nakuru Town East) stressed that policy approval must translate into lower power bills for ordinary citizens and local industry.

"Energy is right at the core of economic transformation. But sometimes just having energy is not enough—we must look at affordability.

Expensive energy will not transform the economy by the percentages we expect," he added.

Hon. Gikaria also called for stringent local content enforcement to prevent multi-billion-shilling energy investments from siphoning funds out of local communities, citing historical gaps in resource-rich areas like Turkana.

Deputy Leader of the Majority Party Hon. Owen Baya (Kilifi North) lauded the administration's grid expansion trajectory, pointing to the goal of 100% electricity access and universal clean cooking by 2030.

"This policy framework represents a comprehensive blueprint. We must reign in on independent power producers (IPPs) to bring down the cost of power so that we actually achieve competitive energy pricing for households," said Hon. Baya.

The House directed the Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum, alongside sector regulators including the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) and the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), to implement the Committee's directives and submit a comprehensive compliance progress report to Parliament within 12 months.



The House in session in the past

MPs demand strict implementation timelines for House recommendations as National Assembly adopts Audit report

Members of Parliament have rallied behind strict enforcement mechanisms for House resolutions, asserting their constitutional authority to safeguard public funds and streamline state agency operations.

The debate followed the tabling and consideration of the Ninth Report of the Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration, and Agriculture in August 2026.

Moving the motion, Committee Chairperson and Navakholo MP, Hon. Emmanuel Wangwe outlined actionable recommendations aimed at resolving long standing governance, financial, and operational gaps at the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA), the Tea Board of Kenya, the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), and the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS).

Lawmakers emphasized that the passing of comprehensive oversight reports must be coupled with strict follow through to ensure public institutions implement corrective measures.



The National Assembly in a past sitting

Highlighting the legal mandate of the Legislature, Members underscored that House resolutions carry binding constitutional weight that must be respected across all government arms.

Marakwet West MP, Hon. Timothy Kipchumba urged the House to use its powers through the Committee on Implementation to ensure that resolutions adopted by the House are followed.

"This House has adopted many reports, but the question has always been, will there be any follow-up? We have a very able Committee on Implementation that must ensure House resolutions are fully implemented," said Hon. Kipchumba.

He noted that the Constitution and Standing Orders grant the House powers similar to those of the High Court.

"Court orders are never issued in vain. Similarly, the House never adopts resolutions without purpose. Individuals or agencies that fail to implement House resolutions must face consequences," he added.

Sessional Speaker Hon. Martha Wangari in reaffirming Parliament's constitutional mandate stated, "the Constitution under Article 125 similarly gives this House the powers to issue summons and directives just like the High Court of Kenya."

Responding to the debate, Hon. Wangwe commended Members for their commitment to strengthening parliamentary oversight, confirming that the Committee will work closely with the Committee on Implementation to embed explicit execution timelines into parliamentary procedure.

Fighting FGM: Social Protection Committee calls for expansive data collection as Anti-FGM Board seeks MPs' intervention for more resources



Hon. Samuel Moroto addresses the meeting with the Anti-FGM Board in Narok County on Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Members of the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Social Protection have challenged the Anti-FGM Board and the County Anti-FGM Steering Committees to conduct extensive grassroots research and data collection to provide a more accurate assessment of the fight against Female Genital Mutilation.

Speaking in Narok County at an Anti-FGM Consultative meeting, a delegation of the Committee, led by Narok North Constituency MP Hon. Agnes Pareyio, called for broader data collection on FGM case studies by the Board, stating that current statistics in the public domain may not accurately reflect the extent of the vice over the years.

"The eradication of FGM requires collaborative efforts from all quarters, including in-depth research and data collection from the most remote parts of our villages," said Hon. Pareyio.

According to the MP, who is also the former Anti-FGM Board Chairperson, there is an urgent need to hold perpetrators accountable, and due legal procedures ought to be followed in resolving cases of FGM and defilement.

"This is a long process that should not end with rescuing the victims; it should include their repatriation to safety, education, and subsequent accountability for those involved," she said.

Adding that "We must candidly address the need to build sustainable information databases, where, despite victims' restitution, perpetrators must be held accountable; this includes arrests and prosecution."

Echoing her sentiments, Kapenguria Constituency Member of Parliament Hon. Samuel Moroto acknowledged the need to conduct more intensive data collection to guide policy formulation and resource allocation in the fight against FGM.

"Most of the available victim numbers are obtained from hospitals, and it is for the Board to engage further and reach the deepest parts of the affected regions to gather accurate information only available there," said Hon. Moroto.

The Legislator intimated that the FGM vice is unfortunately still rife in certain parts of the Country despite decades of efforts to reform the systems, thus the need for more concerted initiatives by all relevant stakeholders to ensure total eradication.

Speaking to the MPs on Resourcing and Access, the Anti-FGM Board, led by Acting CEO Nyerere Kutwa, sought Parliament's intervention to increase budget allocations to relevant departments and ministries to sustain safe houses, rescue centres and survivor services.

The Board also recommended strengthening Gender Desks in all police stations across the Counties and providing periodic refresher training for Gender Desk officers.

According to the Board, there is also a need to strengthen community-level prevention in identified hotspots through targeted dialogues, school programmes, survivor-led advocacy, and engagement of elders, men, women and youth.



Hon. Agnes Pareyio speaking during the Consultative meeting with the Anti-FGM Board in Narok County on Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Transport Committee questions KPA over Ksh8.3 billion, 1.8km road inside Mombasa Port



Committee Chairma Hon. George Kariuki questionning KPA witnesses during the meeting at KPA head office in Mombasa, Tuesday September 22nd, 2026. On the left is the General Manager Internal Audit and Risk Assurance Dr. Fredrick Oyugi, who represented the MD

The National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure led by Hon. George Kariuki, MP Ndia, last week sought details of the ongoing 1.8-kilometre road project inside the Port of Mombasa, being undertaken at a cost of Sh8.3 billion.

The matter was raised during the Committee's inspection tour of the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) headquarters and port facilities in Mombasa County, aimed at assessing operations and identifying challenges that require intervention.

The General Manager Internal Audit and Risk Assurance Dr. Fredrick Oyugi and his Chief Engineer, Mr. Nyaga, in charge of the port expansion project were put to task to justify the Ksh8.3 billion cost for the 1.8-kilometre road.

"This question has been in the media. Yes, you handle heavy cargo, but the figure is suspicious. We want to know what special materials are being used on this road, we want to see the advertisement, how many contractors showed interest and who was awarded the contract," said Hon. Kariuki.

"We have seen wastage of public resources in this country, and that is part of the reason we are here. You are spending Ksh8 billion on a 1.8-kilometre road while our youth are suffering out there — it is unacceptable. As a committee, we will be asking for a special audit of this road to establish the facts," he added.

Hon. Tom Joseph Kajwang (Ruaraka), sought to know the constitutional provision KPA relied on to allocate such a huge amount to a small project.

"From which legal authority did you get the mandate to spend internal revenue without engaging the National Treasury and the National Assembly? You are just administrators here. We want you to contextualize this decision within the Constitution," he said.

Mr. Oyugi and his team agreed to prepare a comprehensive response to the questions raised during the sitting, together with all relevant documents requested by the Committee. They however clarified that the road project originated from the KPA master plan.

"Honourable Members, we have had other priority areas despite receiving allocations since 2018. This road is part of our priorities; designs were done with the aim of averting accidents arising from port operations and human traffic. The road links Terminal One and Two from our gates," he explained.

The Committee will be considering the initiation of a special audit of the project if the required documents are not submitted.

Dagoretti MP Hon. Kiarie warns Africa risks becoming a 'digital plantation' in AI revolution



Dagoretti South MP, Hon. John Kiarie, chairperson of the National Assembly Committee on Communications, Information and Innovation in a previous meeting at Bunge Tower

Africa risks becoming a "digital plantation" in the artificial intelligence revolution unless the continent takes greater control of its data, cultural knowledge, infrastructure and technological future, warns Dagoretti South MP Hon. John Kiarie.

Hon. Kiarie, who chairs the National Assembly Committee on Communications, Information and Innovation, says African countries must move beyond being consumers of technologies developed elsewhere and play a greater role in designing, training, deploying and governing AI systems.

In a policy paper seen by Bunge Weekly, titled Harnessing AI in Africa: Who is Coding the Code?, Hon. Kiarie raises questions he says should shape Africa's AI debate: Who defines the problems? Whose knowledge trains the models? Who owns the infrastructure? And where does the economic value generated by AI accumulate?

He cautions that African languages, oral traditions and indigenous knowledge could become raw material for AI systems without communities retaining meaningful control or sharing in the benefits.

Among the safeguards he proposes are informed consent, community authority over traditional knowledge, attribution, fair sharing of commercial benefits, and protection of sacred or restricted information.

"Permission to record must not become permission for every future use," Hon. Kiarie says.

He also advocates risk-based AI regulation, with systems affecting people's rights, safety or access to essential services facing stronger requirements, including impact assessments, local testing and human oversight.

Hon. Kiarie says citizens should know when AI is being used, receive understandable explanations, challenge erroneous decisions and access remedies.

He calls for Parliament to strengthen its capacity to scrutinise emerging technologies and proposes a Committee of the Future to inform legislation and budgeting.

Beyond regulation, he urges investment in electricity, connectivity, computing infrastructure, African-language technologies, research, skills development and worker retraining.

Hon. Kiarie says Kenya's AI Strategy 2025–2030 and the African Union's Continental AI Strategy provide a foundation for action.

"Africa must enter the AI age carrying its own mind, memory and voice," he says.

Quotes of The Week



Our legitimacy as Parliament is derived from the citizens we represent. Our laws, budgets and oversight responsibilities have meaning only to the extent that they improve people's lives. For this reason, a Parliament that is responsive to its people must also be inclusive and gender responsive. Gender responsiveness requires Parliament to assess how its laws, budgets and policies affect women, men, girls and boys; promote equal participation and representation; allocate resources fairly; strengthen public participation; and use oversight to address gender gaps. It should be reflected throughout the parliamentary process, from legislation and budgeting to oversight, representation and engagement with the public.

-Hon. Gladys Boss (Uasin Gishu County)



The authors of the 2010 Constitution demonstrated great wisdom. Article 226(4), which establishes the accounts and powers of the Auditor-General, clearly provides for the appointment of an accountant to audit the accounts of the office. Therefore, to enhance credibility and transparency in auditing the Republic of Kenya, it is prudent that the office of the Auditor-General is audited. Through the budgeting process, this House allocates resources to the office, which are taxpayers' money. The Auditor-General uses these resources to audit public entities at both national and county levels. It is prudent to establish whether these funds are being used properly.

-Hon. Nicholas Mwale (Butere)



For mothers who give birth, even if you look at our religious laws, a mother is required to breastfeed her child for up to two years. Under international standards, some women are given six months, but here, some are given 120 days while others are given 90 days. Therefore, there is a difference. Mothers should be given time to breastfeed and stay at home with their children. This allows the mother to know her child so that when she leaves and returns to work, she will have created environment where someone else can take care of the child at home.

- Hon. Zamzam Mohammed (Mombasa County)



There is a need to consider the local content of oil produced in Kenya. This should include sourcing trucks locally to transport oil and engaging Kenyan contractors. There is a gap because local communities, especially people of Turkana County, are not adequately considered. We also need to strengthen National Oil Corporation of Kenya (NOCK). Most countries have companies responsible for managing oil reserves during shortages or crises such as the current one. Another project we have abandoned, which we ought to revive and complete, is the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor, including pipeline infrastructure to Ethiopia and South Sudan.

- Hon. Julius Mawathe (Embakasi South)



As corporal punishment remains banned and children become more aware of their rights, guidance and counselling is an important channel for reaching children in schools effectively. Children, particularly teenagers, experience a period of storm and stress, characterised by mixed emotions, being happy at one moment and extremely sad at another. Their reactions to situations can be intense and volatile, while parents may be too busy to give them quality time and attention. This leaves teachers with greater responsibility to help students make informed decisions about issues affecting their lives. This necessitates strengthening guidance and counselling programmes in all our schools.

- Hon. Rahab Mukami (Nyeri County)



The Last Mile Electricity Connectivity Initiative faces problems. Some contractors drop poles at a site and later transfer them elsewhere because the same contractor is handling three or four projects. We do not have equity. It is worse when money is taken from communities and nothing is done. This is unacceptable. The Energy Cabinet Secretary needs to explain how contractors were procured and their capacities assessed. The Committee in charge must scrutinise the contractors and establish whether they are qualified. Such companies should be held accountable. We need power for our homes, and contractors must deliver on their responsibilities.

-Hon. Majimbo Kalasinga (Kabuchai)



The duration and conditions of maternity leave have a bearing on the health and wellbeing of mothers and children. Adequate maternity leave enables mothers to recover from childbirth, initiate and sustain breastfeeding, provide essential early childhood care, and establish healthy mother-child bonds. The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF recommend exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of an infant's life. Differences in maternity leave periods also raise broader questions about why mothers receive varying durations of leave depending on their sector or employment arrangements. There is a need to consider whether the existing framework adequately promotes equitable maternity protection.

-Hon. Dorothy Muthoni (Nominated)



There are four regional cancer centres in the country: Garissa, Mombasa, Nakuru and an upcoming one in Kisii. We need these centres to take care of cancer patients because the disease is prevalent and a cause of death. The problem is that counties are unable to manage the regional cancer centres. Cancer patients do not come from one county but from the entire region. The national Government should take over these centres so they can be properly managed under the Ministry of Health. Counties struggle to pay electricity bills and buy consumables, leaving the facilities non-operational most of the time.

- Hon. Dekow Mohamed (Garissa Township)



The problem of fake alcohol is affecting many counties. *TikTok* has stories about fake alcohol, including accounts narrated by doctors about people who have died after consuming it. I have heard from friends that you can scan the QR code on drinks. If it does not provide information, you can return the drink to the person who sold it to you. How many people know they can scan the code to confirm whether a drink is genuine? We need KEBS, KRA and related agencies to urgently strengthen enforcement, public awareness and verification. This issue affects young people, everywhere in the country.

- Hon. Irene Mayaka (Nominated)



Cancer is a serious killer and a nationwide problem. Nowadays, all we hear is that someone has died of cancer. Almost 40 or 50 per cent of deaths are attributed to cancer. Honestly, we are not taking this issue with the seriousness it deserves. If the Cabinet passed a resolution for asbestos roofing materials to be removed more than six months ago and no action has been taken, this is serious. We should look at the root causes of cancer and prevent them because treatment has failed, and where available, it is so expensive that ordinary people cannot afford it.

- Hon. Yussuf Adan (Mandera West)

CLIQUE & CLICKS



Committee on Health Members Hon. Pauline Lenguris (Samburu) and Hon. Prof Jaldesa Guyo (Moyale) consulting during a stakeholders meeting over the Tobacco Control Bill



Mandera South MP, Hon. Abdul Haro, having a conversation with a student who showed up to participate in the public participation exercise



Members of the Education Committee, led by the Vice Chairperson, Hon. Eve Obara, pose for a group photo with members of the Mau Mau group who came to participate in the education reforms public participation exercise



National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity Committee Members Hon. Joshua Oron (Kisumu Central) exchanges notes with Hon. Martin Owino (Ndhiwa) during a meeting with National Irrigation Authority officials



Hon. Millie Mabona, the Minority Whip and Suba North MP (2nd from the right), speaking to some of the delegates during the 2nd day of the Inclusive Legislatures for Gender-Responsive Policies (ILGRP) Regional Forum, 2026



Committee on Health Chairperson Hon. Dr. James Nyikal (Seme) receives a memorandum from a section of religious leaders who were among stakeholders that appeared before the Committee to give their input on the Tobacco Control Bill



Members of the Diaspora Affairs and Migrant Workers Committee interact with plumbing trainees at the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA)



Public Accounts Committee Members, Hon. Marianne Kitany (Aldai) and Hon. Mary Emaase (Teso South) during a meeting with Basic Education state department officials

Mombasa campus

BARINGO COUNTY

Women Groups receive Ksh.8.3 million in NGAAF support in Baringo County



Baringo County MP Hon. Florence Jematiah (right), Gender and Culture CS Hon. Hannah Cheptumo and other female MPs displays a dummy cheque given to one of the groups from NGAAF

Baringo County MP Hon. Florence Jematiah hosted the Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture, the Arts and Heritage, Hon. Hannah Cheptumo, during the official launch of National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) projects in Baringo County.

During the event, women's groups received grants worth Ksh. 8.3 million to support and strengthen existing businesses, establish new enterprises, and improve household incomes.

"The day marked another important milestone in our commitment to empowering women, supporting livelihoods, and expanding economic opportunities across the county," said Hon. Jematiah, as she thanked her colleagues who graced the occasion.

"To further support organised groups, 15 women's groups received 100-seater tents and chairs to enable them to generate income through hire services, while also supporting community functions and social activities," she explained.

The beneficiaries also received salon and kinyozi equipment to provide them with practical tools to establish and expand businesses in the beauty and grooming sector.

Hon. Kajwang hands over modern tuition block to Mathare Four Primary School

RUARAKA CONSTITUENCY

Ruaraka MP Hon. Tom Joseph Kajwang has handed over a modern tuition block to Mathare Four Primary School to ease congestion and provide a conducive learning environment for pupils.

The new block, constructed through funds from the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF), comprises several classrooms and is expected to improve the learning environment while giving the school a new face.

Speaking during the handover, Hon. Kajwang said the project was initiated to address the congestion challenges the school has been experiencing due to the increasing number of learners being admitted every year.

"The school has been battling congestion challenges due to the increasing number of learners being admitted every year. The project was a priority so as to deal with the challenge," he said.

The MP noted that through the NG-CDF, he has supported various schools across the constituency through infrastructure development.

He said the interventions would contribute to improving education standards and ensuring greater access to quality education, particularly for learners from informal settlements.



Hon. Tom Joseph Kajwang (second right) officially opens the new tuition block at Mathare Four primary School funded by NG-CDF



Hon Kajwang alongside pupils and other leaders cuts a plague to officially open the tuition block at Mathare Four Primary School below The new tuition block at Mathare Four Primary School

Infrastructure development transforms schools in Butere constituency

BUTERE CONSTITUENCY

Muluwa Senior School in West Marama Ward, Butere Constituency, is among 16 schools benefiting from infrastructure development projects worth millions of shillings, funded through the NG-CDF under the patronage of Hon. Tindi Mwale.

"My ambitious programme to give schools in Butere a new face is gaining momentum. I want learners and teachers to operate in habitable environments so that academic standards can improve," said Hon. Mwale.

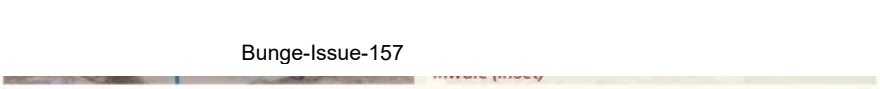
Under the programme, the following institutions are benefiting from modern eight-classroom storey blocks:

- Muluwa Primary School – West Marama Ward
- Ikokwa Primary School – Shianda Marenyo Ward
- Shikulu Primary School – South Marama Ward
- Bulanda Primary School – Central Marama Ward
- Shiraha Secondary School – North Marama Ward
- Shibembe Secondary School – South Marama Ward
- Marenyo Primary School – Marenyo/Shianda Ward
- Imanga Secondary School – West Marama Ward
- Ituti Secondary School – West Marama Ward
- Masaba Secondary School – South Marama Ward
- Eshirembe Primary School – Central Marama Ward
- Butere Primary School – Central Marama Ward
- Shinamwenyuli Secondary School – Central Marama Ward
- Muluwa Secondary School – West Marama Ward
- Lukoye Primary School – North Marama Ward
- Shibuche Primary School – Central Marama Ward





The modern tuition block at Muluwa Senior School that is set for commissioning by area MP Hon. Tindi Mwale (inset)



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Hon. Daniel Wanyama the Committee Chairperson during the exercise at Mama Grace Onyango Cultural and Social Hall, Kisumu County

Sports and Culture Committee conducts public participation exercise on the Creative Economy Bill across six counties

The National Assembly Committee on Sports and Culture chaired by Hon. Daniel Wanyama (Webuye West) has conducted a public participation exercise across six counties on the Creatives Economy Bill, which seeks to establish a legal and institutional framework for the development and growth of Kenya's creative economy.

The two delegations visited Kisumu, Bungoma, Uasin-Gishu, Kilifi, Kwale and Mombasa counties, collecting views from creatives and artists with an aim of enriching the Bill before its enactment into a law.

While in Kisumu County, Hon. Wanyama who sponsored the Bill told the creatives present that the Bill covers creative sectors including music, film, performing arts, visual arts, fashion, crafts, writing, design, photography, animation, gaming, digital media and content creation.

"This Bill which has now gone through the first reading is very timely because creatives have been taken advantage of by middlemen and brokers for a long time. This Bill will put policies in place and regulations to protect you and ensure you earn from your talents," the Chairperson said.

According to Mr. Godfrey Emoja a creative based in Kisumu, the Bill should provide for a more transparent and coordinated Collective Management Organisations (CMO) framework, including consideration of consolidation and a unified royalty-collection mechanism.

"I recommend that the national royalty collection and distribution system be integrated with eCitizen or another publicly accountable government-supported digital platform which is administered independently and professionally," Mr. Emoja said.

Bungoma County based artists proposed that the Kenya Audio-Visual & Cinema Commission, which is proposed to replace the current Kenya Film Commission in the Bill, should be a devolved unit with offices across all sub-counties in order to scout and identify talents.

In Uasin-Gishu County, the creatives proposed a 70:30 royalties sharing ratio in favor of the artists unlike the current arrangement where they claim that the PRISK and Music Copyright Society of Kenya (MCSK) take a lion share of the royalties giving artists nothing.

"When it comes to royalties let it be devolved to county level. Register artists per county. Anytime I have had an issue with my music copyright or any other complain I have to go all the way to Nairobi," Mr. Kevin Kiborek said.

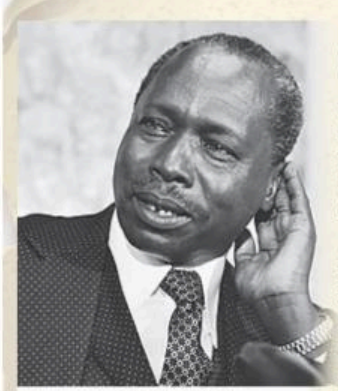
The Committee now retreats to write a report which will be tabled in the House for debate.



Mr. Godfrey Emoja a Creative based in Kisumu makes his submissions to the Committee at Mama Grace Onyango Cultural and Social Hall Kisumu

This week in history

The "Nyayo Election": Kenya votes a year early, 26th September, 1983



President Moi

On Monday, 26th September 1983, Kenyans went to the polls a year ahead of the scheduled general election. The early election came following the dissolution of the National Assembly by President Daniel Arap Moi who described the premature election as an effort to "clean the system" by removing legislators he considered "greedy, selfish and corrupt."

Just Thirteen months earlier, on 1st August 1982, a failed coup by a faction of soldiers from the Kenya Air Force had attempted to overthrow Moi's government. The coup attempt, which shook up the young presidency, exposed deep lying cracks and divisions within the political establishment, with mistrust and internal tensions continuing to plague the political establishment in the months that followed.

Against this backdrop of cabinet intrigue and a perceived weakened presidency, President Moi dissolved the National Assembly on 15 July 1983, paving way for what came to be referred to as the "Nyayo Elections."

With Kenya then being a one-party state, President Moi was re-elected unopposed. On the other front, a total of 750 candidates would then contest for the 158 parliamentary seats, all under the Kenya African National Union (KANU) party. Nearly 40 per cent of incumbent MPs, including several sitting Ministers, lost their seats.

For the National Assembly, the 1983 election remains an important chapter in its institutional history. It reflects an era when the timing of parliamentary dissolution and the electoral process were shaped by a presidential system and a single-party political order, before the country's later transition to multiparty democracy and stronger parliamentary oversight and accountability frameworks.

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