

Hon. Commissioner Faith Gitau, MP. Nyan-darua County distrubuting sanitary towels to pupils from the County.

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Speaker Wetang'ula assures Commonwealth Secretary General of Support

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MPs decry imbalance in Teacher- Student ratio in Junior Secondary Schools

PG 7

Parliamentary Symposium Sheds Light on the Power of Public Participation in Democracy: Enhancing Democracy and Building Trust

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The Leader of the Majority Party , Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah MP, addressing delegates during the opening ceremony of the Third Annual Parliamentary Symposium



Speaker Wetang'ula applauds Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) for their support during MPs induction

National Assembly Speaker Rt Hon.(Dr) Moses Wetang'ula has expressed his gratitude to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) for their continued support to the National Assembly of Kenya, through capacity building for both Members of Parliament and Staff.

Speaker Wetang'ula made these remarks while paying a courtesy call to the Hon. Stephen Twigg, the CPA secretary General in his office at the CPA headquarters in London.

Hon.Wetangula who was accompanied by among other delegates Clerk of the National Assembly and several MPs noted that there is need to continue providing support to the legislators in order to enable them to effectively deliver on their mandate. He also acknowledged the support the National Assembly received from the CPA in the Post-election Seminar held in Mombasa early this year themed, "Equipping the 21st century legislator for effective service delivery" where the Association sourced for facilitators to engage with Members on several thematic areas.

"We are grateful for the wonderful presentation your representatives offered to our members and we look forward to have you join us during the scheduled Mid-term Review workshop in 2025," He noted.

The CPA brings together parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to exchange ideas amongst themselves and with experts in various fields to identify benchmarks of good practice and new policies they can adopt in the governance of their societies.

CPA has been providing support to Kenyan branch either directly or by facilitating resource persons from CPA branches to facilitate seminars, workshops and trainings.

In the recent post-election seminar, the CPA availed notable personalities from other parliaments with advanced Parliamentary democracies to share their experience with members.

Members who accompanied the speaker during to this courtesy call confirmed that such engagements have notably sharpened their skills in articulating Parliamentary matters especially for those who are serving their first time in parliament.



National Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula signs a visitor's book during a courtesy call to Hon. Stephen Twigg, the CPA Secretary General in his office at the CPA headquarters, London.

He reiterated that there is need for the CPA Kenyan branch to continue conducting self-assessment and identifying areas of collaboration with CPA headquarters. This will steer forward the efforts being made to equip legislators with sufficient skills legislation matters as well as oversight.

Hon. Twigg in his remarks applauded the National Assembly for her commitment in supporting the elected leaders to fully understand their roles by facilitating them to take part in international benchmarking, conferences as well as trainings.

National Assembly to enhance collaboration with the Parliamentary Centre and partners; says Deputy Clerk

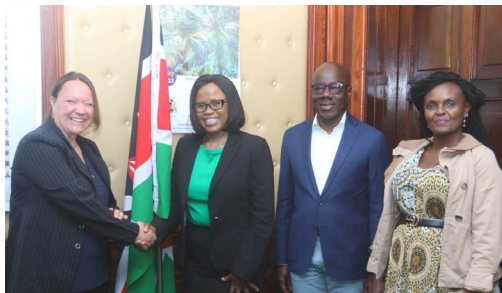
The National Assembly is keen on enhancing collaboration with the Parliament Centre and a Canadian based non-governmental organization that has been supporting programs in the House and the African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA) for over a decade.

This follows a recent resolution made during a courtesy call by Dr. Rasheed Draman, Executive Director of ACEPA-Ghana accompanied by Ms. Edith Gingras – Regional Director for Africa and MENA, Parliamentary Centre to the Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, Ms. Serah Kioko.

Speaking during the meeting, Ms. Kioko recounted with gratitude the role that the Centre played in the formative stages of the establishment of the Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST) in Nairobi.

She thanked the organizations and assured them of the continued interest of the National Assembly to partner with them in enhancing the capacity of Members and staff.

"The National Assembly remains grateful for the role you have played in supporting the CPST in developing its training modules and other programs. Additionally, your collaboration with the National Assembly which dates back to the 10th Parliament has had a great impact and we are keen to enhance it through the review of our Memorandum of Understanding", she noted.



National Assembly Deputy Clerk Ms. Serah Kioko with Dr. Rasheed Draman - the Executive Director of ACEPA-Ghana and Ms. Edith Gingras - Regional Director for Africa and MENA, Parliamentary Centre - Canada and Ms Hope Muli, the National Parliamentary Advisor - Kenya (ILGRP).

On their part, the delegation expressed their commitment in accelerating the advancement of democratic practices around the world. They noted that their programs had increased focus on promoting good governance and institutional strengthening to gender equality and social justice.

The meeting had been convened to discuss the implementation of the Inclusive Legislatures for Gender-Responsive Policies project which is funded by Global Affairs Canada.

The project is aimed at enhancing the capacity of legislatures to formulate and operationalize gender-responsive institutional strategies, reforming Parliament's administrations for efficient gender-sensitive

Founded in 1968, the Parliamentary Centre is one of the leading and longest serving non-governmental, non-partisan organizations dedicated to the strengthening of parliamentary democracy in Canada and around the world.

resource utilization and service delivery, including gender equality aspects of human resource management policies and practices.

The project is also geared towards enhancing the legislatures capacity to initiate, scrutinize, debate, amend and pass inclusive and gender-responsive laws, including gender-sensitive budgets, among other objectives.

In attendance were, Dr. Rasheed Draman - the Executive Director of ACEPA-Ghana and Ms. Edith Gingras – Regional Director for Africa and MENA, Parliamentary Centre - Canada and Ms. Hope Muli, the National Parliamentary Advisor - Kenya (ILGRP).

Founded in 1968, the Parliamentary Centre is one of the leading and longest serving non-governmental, non-partisan organizations dedicated to the strengthening of parliamentary democracy in Canada and around the world.

Originally established to support the Canadian Parliament, the Centre's program has gradually acquired a global focus and currently supports over 120 legislatures at the regional, national, and sub-national levels across 70 countries.



Focus on role of public participation in enhancing democracy as Parliament holds Third Annual National Symposium

The role of public participation in enhancing democracy was the focus, at the just concluded Parliamentary Service Commission-organized Third Annual Parliamentary Symposium in Nakuru County.

The two-day event themed “Effective Public Participation: The Big Question for Legislatures” is hosted by the Center for Parliamentary Studies and Training. The Symposium was officially opened by the Leader of Majority Party in the National Assembly Hon. Kimani Ichung’wah on behalf of the Speaker of the National Assembly Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang’ula.

Delivering his official opening remarks, Hon. Ichung’wah underscored the place of public participation in the process of legislation, a key requirement in Constitution of Kenya, 2010. He noted that the provision that requires Parliament to conduct public participation during the consideration of Bills had propelled the country to the peak of countries that have allowed democracy in governance to thrive.

The Leader of the Majority Party added that a lot still needed to be done to improve the process of public participation and to make the process impactful.

“Our country has emerged a leader in public participation. We however have to ask ourselves, how effective or impactful has it been? Do Kenyans feel

their views are taken into account?” he posed.

Hon. Ichung’wah observed that public participation is a fundamental principle of democracy and a requirement of the law. Indeed, it is a requirement of the Constitution of Kenya. “Article 118 of the Constitution requires Parliament to conduct its business openly, and its sittings and those of its committees shall be open to the public. It further requires the facilitation of public participation and involvement in the legislative and other business of Parliament and its committees”, Hon. Ichung’wah held.

Speaking on behalf of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Service Commission the Secretary to the Commission and Clerk of the Senate, Mr. Jeremiah Nyegeye emphasized the significance of public participation in shaping legislation and influencing decision-making processes, including the agenda and priorities of legislatures. He added that public participation is a vital catalyst for fostering public trust in institutions including the legislature. The citizenry values inclusion and transparency in the conduct of public affairs.



The Leader of the Majority Party in the National Assembly Hon. Kimani Ichung’wah confers with the Chairperson of the CPST Board and PSC Commissioner, Hon. Rachael Ameso during the opening session of the Third Annual National Parliamentary Symposium hosted by CPST in Naivasha.

The Keynote Address at the symposium was delivered by the former Governor Makueni County, Hon. (Prof.) Kivutha Kibwana who also underscored the importance of public participation in legislation. He took participants through the different mechanisms of achieving public participation ranging from public hearings, memorandum to stakeholder engagements.

Regional Integration Committee calls for resolution to the long standing Kenya, Uganda Migingo Island dispute



National Assembly Regional Integration Committee Members in a consultative meeting with the PS EAC Affairs, Abdi Dubart. The session was chaired by Hon. Farah Salah (Fafi), the Committee Vice-chairperson.

National Assembly Committee on Regional Integration wants the ongoing security concerns between Kenya and Uganda at the disputed Migingo Island in Lake Victoria, resolved.

During a consultative meeting between the Committee and the Ministry of East Africa Community (EAC), the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) and Regional Development, Session Chair, Hon. Farah Salah (Fafi), took the ministry to task to explain the measures they have taken to guarantee the safety of local fishermen undertaking commercial fishing at the, Migingo Island.

“What measures are being taken to ensure the resolution of the border conflict and security concerns along Lake Victoria and in particular, around Migingo Island?”, he posed.

“The role of the EAC is to guarantee the safety and livelihood of local fishermen in both nations while working towards a peaceful resolution and preventing such problems in future,” Hon. Salah held.

In response, Mr. Abdi Dubart, the Principal Secretary for EAC affairs disclosed to the Members that the Migingo Island conflict between Kenya and Uganda is basically a conflict over fisheries resources especially the rich Nile perch fishing ground, off the Island which fishermen from either side claim ownership to, due to historical and cultural reasons.

According to the PS, Article 5 of the Treaty establishing the EAC provides for promotion of peace, security, stability and good neighbourliness among the partner states. However, he disclosed that there was no border and boundaries dispute resolution mechanism to support the partner states in dealing with conflicts such as the Migingo Island dispute.

He however acknowledged that there were attempts made by both Kenya and Uganda towards addressing the particular security concerns around the Island.

“To manage the fisheries resources, the EAC partner states negotiated and established the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) which provides a framework for cooperation among the member states, how negotiations are made and how to manage the resources,” PS Dubart told the committee members.

Mr. Dubart also told the lawmakers that a Multi-Agency team had been formed at National level to develop a comprehensive National strategy on how to address the dispute under the coordination of Kenya International Boundaries Office (KIBO).

According to the PS, KIBO was aimed at having a common position on the Migingo Island dispute to avoid a situation where different governments institutions provide conflicting information on Kenya’s international boundaries.

“The team comprised of participation from the Ministries of Interior, EAC and Regional Development, Foreign Affairs and Defence,” Mr. Dubart explained.

The PS further told the Committee that until a lasting solution is found, both countries will continue to deploy joint patrols and enforcement agencies within the Island.



Provide alternative revenue growth measures, Finance Committee tells stakeholders during a public hearings

The Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning has challenged the stakeholders appearing before the Committee to make submissions during the week-long public hearings on the Finance Bill, to provide alternative solutions even as they lament over the provisions that do not sit well with them.

Addressing representatives from the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) and the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), Members led by the Chairperson Hon. Kimani Kuria underscored the fact that the country has to grow revenues to not only seal the deficit gap but to also help fund the government programs and meet other government obligations.

“We all live in this country and are aware of the dire economic situation the country is in. I reckon that some of the provisions contained in the Bill for instance the export levy was meant to promote local manufacturing. We are surprised that you are opposed to it. We have also noticed that you have different recommendations on certain provisions. If you really want to grow local manufacturing, you must speak with one voice”, the chairman told the stakeholders.

He told the stakeholders that the ripple effect that would emanate from for instance, the proposed National Housing Development Fund is great given the jobs that the program is set to create, and the demand for inputs the program will create for the manufacturing sector. He wondered that a majority of stakeholders had not supported the provision despite its projected impact.

Speaking on the same matter, Committee Members led by Kitui Rural MP, Hon. David Mboni, Turkana South MP, Dr. John Ariko,



Finance and National Planning Committee Chairperson, Hon. Kuria Kimani (Centre) and his Vice Hon. Benjamin Langat (right) enjoy a light moment during a public hearing session on the Finance Bill, 2023.

Chesumei MP, Hon. Paul Biego challenged the stakeholders to be realistic with their prayers to the Committee. They pointed out the fact that the Committee had found itself between a rock and hard place as they try to balance the interests of taxpayers and the need to grow revenues.

“This Committee has a tough assignment before it. Everyone who has come here is telling us, delete this clause, delete that one. However, we also need alternative ideas. If you’re opposed to this proposal, give an alternative that will help us raise revenues”, the MPs told the stakeholders.

The Stakeholders in their submissions had asked the Committee

to critically relook at the some provisions in the Bill so as to safeguard the interests of the manufacturing sector while enhancing the competitiveness of Kenyan businesses. They had also decried the unpredictability of the tax regime discouraging foreign direct investments.

They further called on the government to promote business certainty through appropriate tax dispute resolution mechanisms.

If you really want to grow local manufacturing, you must speak with one voice.~ Hon. Kimani Kuria

They lamented over the proposal that before appealing a disputed tax decision, parties must deposit an amount equal to 20 per cent of the disputed tax or security with the Kenya Revenue Authority Commissioner General. They noted that such a move would affect taxpayers’ cash flow and pleaded for the status quo to remain.

At the same time, the Committee Chairperson has underscored the need for regular engagements with both KEPSA and KAM so as to deliberate on issues affecting the sectors and offer insights to Members so as to promote evidence driven legislation. He undertook to oversee the enactment of a Tax Policy by the National Assembly so as to promote a free predictable tax regime.

Revolutionizing Parliamentary Coverage: Committees go Live

You will have the opportunity to conveniently access live coverage of Committee activities both within and outside Parliament once the Parliamentary Service Commission implements its revamp plan for the Broadcasting Service unit.

This emerged during a meeting of the Parliamentary Service Commission on Information and Public Communications led by Hon. Mishi Mboko (Commissioner) and the Hon. Daniel Nanok-chaired Committee on Parliamentary Broadcast and Library, deliberated on a short-term and long-term plan in the roll out of the revamp.

According to the PSC team, the plan includes upgrade of the technical infrastructure, purchase of additional



Hon. Daniel Nanok MP, Turkana West, Chairperson Broadcast and Library Committee (right) and Hon. Eng. John Kiragu Chege MP Limuru, (left) alongside Mr. Peter Chemweno, Director Departmental Committees.

equipment and frequencies as well as recruitment of more staff to boost the department.

Director General for Parliamentary Joint Services Mr. Clement Nyandiere told Members, that revamp of the broadcast would also incorporate live coverage of Committee activities within and outside Parliament for both

Hon. Mboko said this revamp plan was in line with the Commission’s strategic plan to enhance public participation in legislative work of Parliament.

“I will be putting a strong case for the necessary allocations, before the Budget and Appropriations Committee, because this is very important for us as members and the people that we represent,” said Hon. Mboko.

Hon. Nanok questioned why it had taken too long to revamp the broadcast services to run independent of National Broadcaster KBC which has been facilitating the plenary live coverage since 2008.

“The Broadcasting service approached from the public participation aspect is extremely important. At Commission level it should actually rank as important as paying salaries,” said Hon. Nanok.

Commission Secretary who is also Clerk to the Senate Mr. Jeremiah Nyegenye, explained that there had been budgetary constraints during past attempts to make allocations for the revamp project.

Other Commissioners who attended the meeting were Hon. Rachel Ameso, Sen. John Kinyua, Sen. Okong’o Omugen, Send. Muthama and Hon. Mohamed Ali who followed the proceedings online.



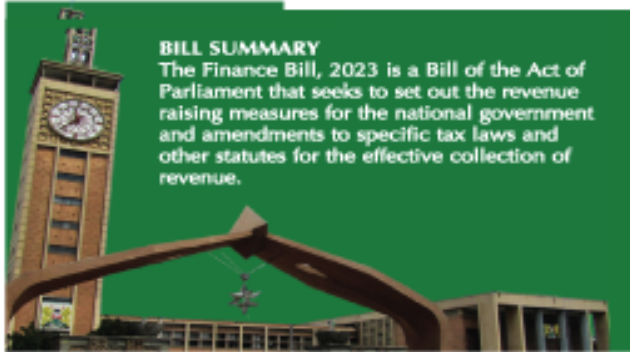
THE FINANCE BILL 2023 KEY HIGHLIGHTS



A Finance Bill is an annual Bill that is enacted mainly to facilitate revenue collection by national government based on the approved annual budget policy statement and estimates.

BILL SUMMARY

The Finance Bill, 2023 is a Bill of the Act of Parliament that seeks to set out the revenue raising measures for the national government and amendments to specific tax laws and other statutes for the effective collection of revenue.



6.1%

The government projects a growth rate of 6.1% for the fiscal year 2023/2024, despite global economic challenges if bill is enacted.

The proposed borrowing for the financial year 2023/24 to reduce to KES 720.1 billion from KES 833.9 billion in the current year.

833.9B
720.1B ↓

The Finance Bill, 2023 proposes amendments to the following legislations (Tax Laws) to enhance efficiency and administration in national revenue mobilization;

- Income tax Act
- Value Added Tax Act
- Tax Appeals Tribunal Act
- The Excise Duty Act
- Tax Procedures Act and;
- Miscellaneous Fees and Levies Act, (No. 29 of 2016)



The fiscal deficit will be financed by net external financing of KES 198.6 billion and net domestic borrowing through treasury bills and bonds, among other interventions.



The Bill also seeks to effect miscellaneous amendments to other legislations for the better administration of taxes and revenue collection. These statutes include: -

- The Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act
- The Kenya Roads Board Act
- The Kenya Revenue Authority Act
- The Employment Act
- The Unclaimed Financial Assets Act
- The Statutory Instruments Act
- The Retirement Benefits (Deputy President and Designated State Officers)



The bill proposes increase of Turnover tax from 1% - 3%

1% - 3%



The bill proposes introduction of digital content monetization taxation

Proposes changes in rates for excisable services, including an increase from 7.5% to 20% for betting, gaming, prize competition, and lottery.



The Value Added Tax amendments include the application of VAT on petroleum products (excluding LPG) at a standard rate of 16%

Tax exemptions for plant and machinery used by manufacturers of pharmaceutical products.



Amendments to the Excise Duty Act introduce new excise duties on goods such as imported fish, sugar confectionery, pasta, powdered juice, and imported cement.

Amendments to the Tax Procedures Act include the establishment of an electronic tax invoicing system and the clarification of tax appeal procedures.



The Finance Bill, 2023 provides an opportunity for the government to accelerate implementation of key projects under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformative Agenda.



The Bill has a timeline of approval by

30th June 2023

coinciding with the enactment of the Appropriation Law, 2023.



*The proposed tax changes in the Finance Bill have different effective dates, as specified in Clause (1) of the Bill.



House Committee to vet nominee for NIS Director General's position

A Committee of the National Assembly is this week expected to vet the nominee for Director General National Intelligence Service, Mr. Noordin Haji.

Last week, National Assembly Clerk Mr. Samuel Njoroge notified the public that the approval hearings would be held on Tuesday May 30, 2023 at the County Hall Mini-chamber.

On Tuesday, Haji is scheduled to appear before the Hon. Nelson Koech-led Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations for approval hearings.

Mr. Njoroge further invited members of the public to submit any representations they may have by way of written statements on oath (affidavits) with supporting evidence contesting the suitability of the nominee for the job on or before Monday, 29 May, 2023 by 5.00PM.

"Section 6(9) of the Parliamentary Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, 2011 provides that any person

"The Parliamentary Appointments Act, 2011 provides that any person may prior to the approval hearing and by written statement on oath, provide the Clerk with evidence contesting the suitability of a candidate to hold the office to which the candidate has been nominated,"

may prior to the approval hearing and by written statement on oath, provide the Clerk with evidence contesting the suitability of a candidate to hold the office to which the candidate has been nominated," read the Clerk's notice in part.

Mr. Haji will be required during the approval hearings to provide his original identity card, academic and professional certificates and other relevant testimonials.

He was also directed to obtain letters/certificates of compliance from the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, Kenya Revenue Authority, Higher Education Loans Board, Directorate of Criminal Investigations, and the office of the Registrar of Political Parties.



Members of the Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations Committee led by Chairperson Hon. Nelson Koech (fifth from left) pose for a picture with outgoing NIS Director General Major General Phillip Kameru.

The Justice and Legal Affairs Committee conducts approval hearings of two members nominated to the Judicial Service Commission

The Justice and Legal Affairs Committee last week conducted approval hearings for Ms. Caroline Nzilani and Hon. Isaac Rutto, who are nominated for appointment as members of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC).

This is in accordance with Article 118(1) (b) and Article (171)(2)(h) of the constitution and Section 6(4) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, 2011.

The session chaired by Tharaka MP Hon. George Gitonga Murugara sought to find out the nominees' understanding of the roles they will be undertaking if they are approved as commissioners in the JSC.

The first to appear before the committee was Ms. Caroline Nzilani, a Strategic Human Resource Expert with extensive professional experience in Human Resource Management.

Members wanted to know how she will handle the issue of the backlog of cases in the Judiciary if approved, to which she said she will help champion the alternative dispute resolution mechanism through reconciliation and negotiations.

As a Human Resource professional, Ms. Caroline also said that she will enhance performance management of the officials working in the judiciary by ensuring that every



Tharaka MP Hon. George Gitonga Murugara (right) the Chairperson of the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC) alongside Kibwezi West MP Hon. Mwangi Mutuse, the Vice-Chairperson of JLAC during the Approval Hearing.

officer is able to set goals that are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound; to ensure that they have clear-cut timelines to conclude cases hence decongesting prisons.

With the common cases of missing files, the nominee noted that there would be need to automate them hence reducing the process of physically looking for files during court processes, making it easier to access any information required.

"As a commissioner, this is an area I would want to champion. By digitizing content, we cut down the time spent by judicial officers and staff preparing notes for judgement as they can be easily transcribed. During and after covid, virtual sittings became a new normal and it has helped move services closer to the people and reduced the high number of people in court rooms." Said Ms. Caroline.

"As a Commissioner, this is an area I would want to champion. By digitizing content, we cut down the time spent by judicial officers and staff preparing notes for judgement as they can be easily transcribed. During and after covid, virtual sittings became a new normal and it has helped move services closer to the people and reduced the high number of people in court rooms."

Ms. Caroline Nzilani Nominee JSC

The committee also vetted Hon. Isaac Rutto, a seasoned politician who served as the Governor for Bomet County from 2013 to 2017, and also served as the MP for Chepalungu Constituency between 1998 and 2002, and 2008 to 2012.

The former legislator said that if he is successful with the appointment, he will ensure that there is fairness in the administration of justice.

"My job is basically to represent the public, and to bring their concerns to the Commission not to the Magistrates." Said Hon. Rutto.

On the question on how he will help decongest the prisons, Hon. Rutto pointed out that one of the ways is to embrace the alternative methods that include arbitration as long as it does not contradict the written law.

The Murugara-led committee will now do a report on the two nominees and either accept or reject their nomination.

APNAC Kenya holds elections, picks new leadership to drive the parliamentary anti-graft body's agenda

The African Parliamentary Network Against Corruption (APNAC) Kenya Chapter held elections to pick new officials who will drive the organisation's anti-graft campaigns.

During the exercise conducted at Nakuru, Kisumu East MP, Hon Shakeel Shabbir, retained the Chairperson's position. Hon Shabbir reelection mandates him to run the Parliamentarians' body for another five years.

Rangwe MP, Hon. Dr. Lillian Gogo, is now the new vice chairperson representing the National Assembly while Nominated Senator Hon. Gloria Orwoba is the vice chairperson representing the Senate. EALA MP Hon. David Ole Sankok is also second in command representing the East African Assembly.

Nandi Hills MP Hon. Benard Kitur takes over as the Secretary General while Hon. (CPA) Julius Rutto of Kesses constituency will take charge of the APNAC-Kenya treasury (Treasurer).

County Women MPs Hon. Beatrice Adagala (Vihiga) and Hon. Esther Passaris (Nairobi), Vihiga Senator Hon. Godfrey Osotsi, MPs Hon. Omar Mwinyi (Changamwe), Hon Aduma Owuor (Nyakach) and Hon. James K'Oyoo (Muhoroni) were elected as Executive Committee Members during the exercise.

APNAC Kenya founder member and first Chairperson Hon. Musikari Kombo, former

"The outgoing team has been critical in revitalising APNAC Chapters in Malawi, Burundi, Mauritius and Zanzibar,"
Hon. Shakeel Shabbir

Secretary General Hon. Isaac Mwaura and outgoing vice chairperson Hon. Miriuki Njagagua were among the leaders who attended the meeting. Hon Shabbir in his acceptance speech after securing the second term, thanked Members for the confidence they had bestowed in him by giving him the mandate to lead the organisation.

"I am greatly honoured to get another mandate from Members to take charge of APNAC-Kenya. The trust and confidence that Members have shown in me is a motivator for me to double my efforts in ensuring that we achieve our goal of making government institutions corruption free zones," he added.

The MP thanked the outgoing leadership for their diligence and steadfastness in the fight against corruption in the country.

"The outgoing team has been critical in revitalising APNAC Chapters in Malawi, Burundi, Mauritius and Zanzibar," Hon Shabbir pointed out.



Newly elected officials of APNAC Kenya and outgoing ones pose for a photograph after picking the organisation's leadership during an exercise held at a Nakuru hotel recently.

"The wise words of a reknown environmentalist the late Hon. Wangari Mathai that says, do what you can to fight corruption it does not matter the magnitude, should guide you as you embark on serving the organisation," said Hon. Shabbir

The Chairperson noted that they were aware that the task ahead of them was enormous noting that it was not an easy ride to fight corruption in Kenya but he was confident that they will make a breakthrough in their campaigns

"I have alot of confidence in the team that has been given

mandate to lead APNAC-Kenya.

They are leaders without tainted backgrounds making them to play the watchdog roles much better," he added.

The MPs showered Hon. Kombo with praises noting that he played a key role in establishment of APNAC and it's growth.

In his response, Hon. Kombo, a former Local Government Minister, said he was happy that APNAC Kenya was growing strong after his exit and urged the leadership to up their efforts in their anti graft campaigns.

House Committee demand accountability from TSC over teacher recruitment disparities in the country

In a bid to address concerns regarding employment diversity and equal opportunities in the education sector, the National Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunities recently held a meeting with the Teachers Service Commission (TSC). Led by Vice Chair Liza Chelule, the Members of the Committee aimed to assess the composition of the newly recruited 30,000 teachers and determine if TSC had made progress in rectifying past inequalities.

The committee requested an interim report detailing the ethnic diversity, age distribution, and representation of persons with disabilities (PWDs) among the newly recruited teachers.

Unfortunately, the presentation by Dr. Nancy Macharia and her team fell short of the committee's expectations. Members criticized the report, describing it as shallow and failing to meet the parliamentary threshold. They also raised concerns about corruption within the Commission, alleging favoritism, bribery, and nepotism in the employment, deployment, and promotion of teachers and school heads.

Additionally, Members of the National Assembly highlighted the severe imbalance in the teacher-student ratio, particularly in Junior Secondary Schools (JSS), and the insufficient number of

teachers with disabilities in both special schools and mainstream educational institutions. In response to these concerns, CEO Dr. Nancy Macharia assured the Committee that the issues raised would be promptly addressed. Dr. Nancy further explained that the Commission faced financial constraints. She emphasized that the TSC had not received dedicated funds for promotions since 2011.

Regarding employment of Persons with Disabilities, the CEO stated that the Commission had prioritized their recruitment during the recent exercise, resulting in 229 individuals being successfully employed.



MASHINANI IN BRIEF

NYANDARUA COUNTY

Nyandarua County MP spearheads conservation campaign in the County recently



Hon. Commissioner Faith Gitau led an initiative to plant trees at Kamande Primary School in Kaimbaga ward, Ol'kalou constituency. This effort aligns with the nation's goal of planting 15 billion trees by 2032.

Accompanied by Hon. Mwangi Nyagah, the local Member of County Assembly (MCA), as well as other County officials, Hon. Commissioner Gitau emphasized the crucial importance of tree planting to achieve sustainable solutions for greening the nation.

During the event, Mama Mwega as she is commonly known among residents, encouraged residents to respond to President Ruto's call and plant 300 trees each by 2032.

In her role as the Nyandarua NGAAF (National Government Affirmative Action Fund) patron, the County MP provided a water tank and sanitary pads to the school.

A total of 50 fruit trees and over 3,000 indigenous trees were distributed, with Commissioner Gitau urging locals to plant more trees and actively participate in the fight against climate change.

KAJIADO CONSTITUENCY

Transforming Lives through Education in Kajiado West



Kajiado West MP Hon. Sunkuyia George commissioning a State-of-the-Art Laboratory at Hekima School, Cornerbaridi, Kajiado West constituency.

Kajiado West MP Hon. Sunkuyia George has been intensifying his efforts to enhance the infrastructure of secondary schools in his constituency, while concurrently investing in the quality of education provided.

He aims to have this serve as a motivation for a considerable number of students to stay enrolled in school.

Furthermore, he asserts that this strategy nurtures the growth of students' skills and expertise, thereby playing a role in shaping a more prosperous generation for the future.

NORTH HORR CONSTITUENCY

Hon. Wario Guyo Adhe leads efforts to tackle North Horr's Hunger crisis



Hon. Wario Guyo Adhe distributing relief food to residents of North Horr Constituency

Hon. Wario Guyo Adhe, MP North Horr, has expanded his #KaziMashinani Programme by collaborating with Good Neighbours, a Non Governmental Organisation dedicated to eradicating hunger worldwide.

Through the support of the initiative, he recently provided food assistance to the residents of North Horr Constituency.

Although the arrival of rains has brought some relief, Hon. Adhe acknowledges that numerous communities remain vulnerable to the harsh realities of hunger.

"This unfortunate situation persists due to the extensive loss of livestock caused by the prolonged drought in the country," he added.

NAROK COUNTY

Narok County School receives funds for Science Laboratory from NG-CDF



Hon. Rebecca Tonkei, MP Narok County addressing pupils and residents at Ntulele Secondary School

Narok County MP, Hon. Rebecca Tonkei, accompanied Governor Patrick Ole Ntutu to Ntulele Secondary School in Mosiro Ward, during the issuance of a Ksh 5 million Cheque from the Ministry of Education, Courtesy of the Ministry's Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu. The money will be Targeted towards the construction of a Science laboratory at the school.

"I have committed to incorporate such young secondary schools into my program #MAMA-COUNTYAMESEMA that seeks to address matters teenage pregnancies, early marriages, effective Career choices etc through public speaking and health talks."

Also present were; Hon. John Ololua(PS Tourism), Hon. Ken Aramat(MP Narok East) and Mosiro Ward MCA Maika Olorgeso



Loss of funds and payment for defective gas cylinders revealed in PAC audit



Public Accounts Committee Chairperson Hon. John Mbadi chairs a meeting that grilled Principal Secretary State Department for Petroleum Mr. Mohamed Liban over financial management by the government entity.

In a recent Parliamentary session, the Public Accounts Committee uncovered grave financial irregularities within the State Department of Petroleum, shedding light on the loss of public funds amounting to over Kshs. 125 million for the payment of defective gas cylinders.

The auditor's report highlighted the Department's loss of Kshs. 125 million through questionable payments made to three companies for the supply of gas cylinders. The Committee expressed strong concerns over these suspicious payments and condemned the agency's involvement in what they deemed a dubious deal.

The Principal Secretary, State Department of Petroleum, Mr. Mohamed Liban was put to task regarding his authorization of payments that did not meet the specified tender requirements.

Hon. John Mbadi expressed his dismay, stating, "This report has revealed flawed procurement processes that have resulted in the misappropriation of public funds by the State Department."

"I wonder why some officers in the Department were not sensitive to the lives of such unsuspecting residents. Why should you expose these Kenyans to danger by supplying them with faulty gas cylinders?"

~Hon. Mbadi.

According to the Committee's findings, the Department had engaged four companies to supply a total of 357,355 6kg gas cylinders as part of the Mwananchi Gas Project during the Financial Year 2017/2018. The project, initiated by the former Ministry of Energy and Petroleum in 2016, aimed to promote the use of modern cooking fuel among low-income households. Selected families were intended to benefit from subsidized gas cylinders, grills, and burners.

However, the project encountered setbacks when an independent inspector contracted to inspect the gas cylinders before distribution discovered that 131,926 of the gas cylinders were faulty. Despite this inspection report clearly indicating that the cylinders were unfit for use, the Department proceeded to make payments for them, as revealed by the auditor's report.

Efforts to rectify the situation were hampered when it was discovered that one of the companies responsible for the faulty cylinders had already gone into receivership, making it impossible for them to supply replacements. This raised serious concerns among Committee Members, as the Department had seemingly ignored the potential risks posed to unsuspecting beneficiaries by distributing faulty gas cylinders.

Hon. John Mbadi expressed his dissatisfaction at the Department's lack of sensitivity towards the lives of Kenyan citizens, questioning why they would expose them to danger by providing faulty gas cylinders.

"I wonder why some officers in the Department were not sensitive to the lives of such unsuspecting residents. Why should you expose these Kenyans to danger by supplying them with faulty gas cylinders?" posed Hon. Mbadi.

Lawmakers further criticized the Department for not engaging the services of the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KBS) to certify the cylinders before making any payments.

In response, PS Liban defended the Department's actions, stating that an ad-hoc inspection and acceptance committee had been appointed to oversee the inspection process and guide the next steps.

According to Mr. Liban, a total of 62,206 cylinders that met the tender specifications were accepted and paid for by the Ministry. He added that 28,035 of these accepted cylinders had been distributed to the public in the initial rollout of the project in Kajiado and Machakos Counties.

Additionally, Chairperson, Hon. John Mbadi, called on the State Department on Petroleum, to take immediate action in recovering approximately Kshs. 42 million that had been unlawfully disbursed to staff as allowances meant for research purposes. Mbadi emphasized that these payments were unauthorized and demanded swift action to rectify the situation.

Documents scrutinised by Members of Parliament exposed the diversion of funds intended for research to pay for transport allowances for staff members, who had worked during regular working hours. Shockingly, these allowances had not received the required approval from the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC), as mandated by law.

Budget Committee holds a meeting with Departmental Committee Chairpersons to review the 2023/24 Budget Estimates



Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo, MP Narok West, Chairperson and Hon. Rtd. (Col) Dido Rasso MP, Saku, Vice Chairperson of Administration and Internal Affairs Committee appearing before the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Members of the Budget & Appropriations Committee (BAC) have urged Departmental Committee chairpersons tabling their reports to ensure that Ministries, Departments and Agencies within their purview invest in production rather than consumption as a long-term measure of reviving the country's economy.

This week the Committee continued with its series of meetings with departmental committees as it scrutinizes the Budget for the next financial year.

Under the Chairmanship of Kiharu MP, Hon. Ndindi Nyoro, Members of the Committee met with Hon. Dr. John Mutunga (Agriculture and Livestock), Hon. Johana Ng'eno (Housing, Urban Planning & Public Works), Hon. Julius Melly (Education and Research),

Hon. Peter Lochakapong (Regional development) and Hon. Dan Wanyama (Sports, Culture and Arts).

The Committee had previously met with Hon. Joash Nyamoko (Lands), Hon. George Murugara (Justice and Legal Affairs), Hon. James Gakuya (Trade, Industry, and Cooperatives), Hon. (Dr.) Robert Pukose (Health), Hon. Alice Wambui Ng'ang'a (Social Protection), Hon. Eric Muchangi (Labour), and Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Administration and Internal Affairs).

"This Committee will ensure that funds are appropriated to the right priority areas," said Hon. Nyoro.

East African Portland Cement Officials put to task on Company's performance

The Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry & Cooperatives, met with the Inspector General of Police, the Chairman for National Lands Commission (NLC), and officials from the Kenya Railways Commission to discuss the status and performance of East African Portland Cement (EAPC).

Led by the Committee Chairperson, Hon. James Gakuya, Members sought an update on the measures taken by the National Police Service (NPS) to assist East African Portland Cement in evicting squatters from their land. They also requested clarity from the National Land Commission on the policy guidelines for the settlement of squatters.

Furthermore, the members sought information on the status of pending payments owed to EAPC by NLC and the distinction between the land purchased by EAPC and that allocated to them by the government.

During the meeting, the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Japheth Koome informed the committee that the Ministry of Interior and National Coordination, through the National Administration and Police Service, conducts regular patrols within the aforementioned land to maintain law and order. He also asked the Portland Cement management to fences the land while pursuing court resolution for the land disputes.

The Chairman for NLC, Mr. Gershon Otachi on his part reiterated that there are numerous court cases regarding the land owned by EAPC Ltd and that compensation will be determined based on the applicable laws.

The Committee also requested clarity from the National Land Commission on the policy guidelines for the settlement of squatters.



Hon. James Mwangi Gakuya, the Chairperson and Hon. Marianne Keitanny vice-chair of the Trade, Industry & Cooperatives Committee, during a Committee meeting to discuss the performance of East African Portland Cement.

However, Mr. Otachi requested for a two-week period to come up with a comprehensive response to the concerns raised by the Committee.

Mr. Peter Kamakia, who represented the Managing Director of Kenya Railways Corporation, acknowledged the outstanding balance owed to EAPC. He informed the Committee about the Corporation's proposal to withhold the final installment of

Kshs. 250 million from the purchase price of the land to facilitate the squatters, with the balance being remitted to EAPC after the exercise.

The Committee agreed to initiate an audit of East African Portland Cement and scheduled a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Lands, the National Lands Commission, and representatives of the squatters. The aim of the meeting will be to gather more information and achieve a fair resolution on the matter.

Lawmakers push for constitutional enshrinement of NG-CDF and NGAAF, citing the transformative impact on education, livelihoods, and communities

Members of the National Assembly are intensifying their calls to have the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) and National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) entrenched in the constitution, following the declaration of the latter as illegal by the courts.

Led by Buuri MP, Hon. Mugambi Rindikiri, the lawmakers advocate for the NG-CDF, stating that the fund has uplifted children from disadvantaged backgrounds who may have otherwise struggled to succeed in education.

Hon. Rindikiri asserted, "Through the NG-CDF, we have created doctors, engineers, pilots, administrators, and good citizens. Without the NG-CDF, we would not have nurtured these individuals among us."

Hon. Rindikiri further argued that the NG-CDF has facilitated youth activities across the 290 constituencies.

He appreciated the fund's contribution towards improving security and infrastructure; through the establishment of police posts, and the creation of laboratories in areas where they were previously lacking



File photo : Members of the National Assembly during a sitting of the House.

Turbo MP, Hon. Janet Sitienei, echoed these sentiments, emphasizing how the NG-CDF has helped individuals, especially those from poor backgrounds, access education and subsequently earn a living.

She stressed the need to enhance the fund to support constituencies and families in improving their livelihoods, as well as developing infrastructure and equipping Junior Secondary Schools, particularly in light of the challenges posed by the Competence Based Curriculum (CBC).

Hon. Sitienei also highlighted the NG-CDF's role in supporting healthcare services through the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF), particularly for individuals with low incomes.

She emphasized the importance of the fund in identifying and assisting needy households.

She firmly stated, "We should not underestimate this fund. Our intention is to enhance it so that we can support and reach out to even more people." Said Hon. Sitienei.

Furthermore, the NG-CDF has played a crucial role in nurturing talents through sports and supporting climate change initiatives such as tree-planting.

Kericho County MP, Hon. Beatrice Kemei, referred to the NG-CDF and NGAAF as vital not only for Members but also for all Kenyans.

She praised the transformative impact of these funds, emphasizing the positive changes in the lives of students, vulnerable families, widows, single mothers, people with disabilities, and those who would have otherwise dropped out of higher education.

Clique & Clicks



The Vice-Chairperson for Justice and Legal Affairs Committee and Kibwezi West MP, Hon. Mwengi Mutuse (left), chats with the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Alfred Mutua (right), and Mbeere North MP Hon. Geoffrey Ruku. The CS had appeared before the Committee to discuss guidelines on the agreement on Double Taxation.

The Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, Mrs. Serah Kioko (center in a yellow jacket), poses for a photo with staff from the Hospitality Department on the sidelines of their training on 'Entrenching Professional Conduct and Etiquette' in Naivasha. The 5-day training was facilitated by the Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST). She urged the staff to uphold high standards of professionalism and strive for personal growth and development.



Hon. Samuel Atandi (Alego Usonga), Hon. Naisula Lesuuda (Samburu West) and Hon. David Ochieng (Ugenya) consulting during a meeting of the Budget and Appropriation Committee to Consider the 2023/2024 FY Budget Estimates for various ministries and State Departments.



Galole MP, Hon. Said Posta, along with Garsen MP, Hon. Ali Wario Hashaka, and Hon. Rehema Hassan, CAS, Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, paid a courtesy visit to the Cabinet Secretary for Water and Irrigation, Ms. Alice Wahome, to discuss the persistent water challenges facing Tana River County.

Hon. Haika Mizighi, MP, Taita Taveta County Chairperson and Hon. Simon King'ara, MP Ruiru and Vice Chairperson of Diaspora Affairs and Migrant Workers Committee during the inquiry into the Role and Conduct of Private Recruitment Agencies in the Recruitment of Workers and Placement of Students Abroad.



Deputy Speaker and Uasin Gishu County MP Hon. Gladys Boss (fourth left) presents a cheque of Kshs.8.5 million to a Women Group to support value addition activities for their organisation in the county recently.



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