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BUNGE Weekly

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House resumes sittings after long recess

The National Assembly will resume its regular sittings on Tuesday, 13th February 2024. This marks the beginning of the Third Session of the 13th Parliament.

The House is expected to approve Members to serve on key sessional Committees including the House Business Committee (HBC), the Powers and Privileges Committee, and the Select Committee on Members' Services and Facilities. Membership to these Committees is renewed at the beginning of each session.

Additionally, the House will consider and approve the House Calendar for the year. This will guide the sittings of the House up to December 2024.

In terms of legislative matters, Members will consider the Budget Policy Statement (BPS), the Debt Management Strategy, and the attendant legislation. The Statement and Debt strategy are expected to be laid on the floor of the House by 15th February.

It is expected that the House will also consider the Budget Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025 once they finalize the BPS and Debt Strategy.

In addition, the legislation in-tray has the Affordable Housing Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 75 of 2023) which aims to establish a legal framework for the Affordable Housing Fund, plus access to accessible and adequate housing.

One of the other significant items for discussion by Members in this session will be the Report by the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) and the legislation proposed.

The Report proposed that the following legislative measures, among others, be undertaken by Parliament:



The Elections Act, 2011 and the IEBC Act, 2011 be amended to repeal the various provisions of the Acts that were declared unconstitutional by the court;



Parliament shall fast track the consideration and enactment of legislation relating to the war against corruption and enhancing integrity among public officers;

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Committees' Round-up

Committee on Health calls for independent oversight in licensing of private hospitals



Members of the Departmental Committee on Health, led by Ndhwa MP, Hon. Martin Owino (centre) addressing the media after the Committee carried out a tour of Nursing Home and Maternity in Eastleigh, Nairobi on Monday, February 29, 2024

The Departmental Committee on Health is calling for the establishment of an independent regulatory body tasked with licensing and overseeing operations of private hospitals across the country.

The Vice Chairperson of the Committee, Hon. Patrick Munene (Chuka/Igambang'ombe), said there is necessity for such a body, citing concerns over the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council's (KMPDC) ability to impartially regulate medical practice due to inherent conflicts of interest.

"Medicine as a profession, registration and supervision of Health facilities cannot be done by KMPDC because when they are done by the same group, then there's a conflict of interest," Hon. Munene said.

Drawing an analogy, he likened the situation to a referee coaching their own team, illustrating the inherent bias that arises when the regulator



Members of the Departmental Committee on Health pose for a photo before they began a fact finding tour of St. Peters Orthopedic Hospital in Kabete Constituency, Kiambu County. From left to right, Hon. Duncan Mathenge (Nyeri Town), Vice Chairperson, Hon. Patrick Munene (Chuka/Igambang'ombe), Hon. Martin Owino (Ndhwa), Hon. (Dr.) Robert Pukose (Endebess), Hon. Joshua Oron (Kisumu Central) and Hon. Antony Kibagendi (Kitutu Chache)

is also responsible for the entities it oversees.

"You cannot referee your own team. If you referee the same team you coach, then there is a problem, and you will definitely favor your team," he said.

According to Hon. Munene, to mitigate such conflicts, there is the need to separate, professional registration, accreditation, and health facility supervision.

The Committee is advocating for the creation of an autonomous body dedicated to licensing and regulating private hospitals across the nation.

The Committee toured health facilities across several counties including; Nairobi City, Murang'a, Meru, Embu, Nakuru, Nyandarua, and Uasin Gishu.

Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation meet Information Technology Experts as the world marks Safer Internet Day

The Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation chaired by Hon. John Kiarie (Dagoretti South), met with members of the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) to consult on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Emerging Technologies. The meeting was held as the world marked the Safer Internet Day that was marked on Tuesday 6th February 2024.

In a session chaired by Hon. Irene Mayaka (Nominated), the Information Technology (IT) experts told Members that the Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Society Bill, 2023 should be dismissed. They argued that the Bill has many glaring gaps which could lead to a national disaster.

According to the Director Center for Law in Information Technology and leader of the delegation, Mr. Alex Gakuru, stakeholders were not involved at any stage before coming up with the Bill.

"This specific Bill was conveyed to the Parliament through a citizen petition under public Petition No. 75 of 2023. It was filed by Mr. Fred Ondieki Sakwe and is now before the Public Petitions Committee," Mr. Gakuru said.

On her part Ms. Elizabeth Mutua, a lecturer at Dedan Kimathi



Chairperson, Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation, Dagoretti South MP, Hon. John Kiarie (left) and Hon. Irene Mayaka (Nominated) following the presentation by members of the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM)

University and who was part of the delegation, stated that the Bill lacks the aspect of Gender Equality since it has no provision for women participation and space for the old people.

After the presentation, the Committee acknowledged that the delegation's opinion was an eye opener assuring them that once the Bill is presented before it, the Committee will conduct public participation.

Members asked the delegation to explain to them how the country could position itself to benefit from AI and minimize the risk of potentially replacing the human resource aspect. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 ▶**

Justice and Legal Affairs Committee holds consultative meetings with stakeholders, discuss matters arising in their institutions

The Justice and Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC) led by the Chairperson Hon. George Murugara. In the first meeting, the Committee met with the Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission (EACC), where they discussed strategic interventions to prevent and combat corruption.

During the meeting, Hon. Murugara noted that the National Assembly has a key role to play in the war against corruption.

The Secretary and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of EACC, Mr. Twalib Mbarak called on the Committee to support the Commission during the next supplementary budget, in its quest to intensify its operations, through personnel emolument, operations and maintenance. Mr. Mbarak noted that during the Supplementary Budget 1, the recurrent budget allocation was reduced by Kshs.130 million.

The Committee also met with members of the Judiciary and the Judicial Service Commission (JSC). During the meeting, the Acting Chief



Tharaka MP Hon. George Murugara, the Chairperson of the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee, engages officials from the Judiciary and Judicial Service Commission.

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Parliament shall amend Article 203(2) of the Constitution to provide that for every financial year, the equitable share of the revenue raised nationally that is allocated to County Governments shall not be less than 20% of all revenues collected by the National Government;



Legislation shall be enacted to establish the National Economic and Social Council (currently established vide Executive Order No. 2 of 2023) as a multi-sector consultative body and in so doing consider, whether to merge the functions of the Council with those of the Vision 2030 secretariat;



Parliament shall fast track the passage of Economic and Social Rights Bills (Senate Bill No. 7 of 2023) for the purposes of enabling citizens to access socio-economic rights guaranteed under Article 43 of the Constitution;



The Constitution be amended to entrench certain funds, that is, the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF), the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) and the Senate Oversight Fund, and that the Ward Development Fund be established in statute;



The Constitution be amended to establish the Office of Prime Minister and Office of Leader of the Opposition;



That Article 88(4)(e) of the Constitution be amended to review the framework for election dispute resolution by transferring this mandate from the IEBC to the Political Parties Dispute Tribunal;



The First Schedule to the IEBC Act, relating to the establishment of the IEBC Selection Panel, to be amended to change the composition of nominating bodies; and



Article 89 of the Constitution (*Delimitation of Electoral Boundaries*) to be amended to give more time for review of names and boundaries of constituencies.

While tabling the Report in the last session, Leader of the Majority Party, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah (Kikuyu), encouraged Members to thoroughly review it during the recess and come back to the House prepared to engage in meaningful debate.

On his part, Leader of the Minority Party, Hon. Opiyo Wandayi (Ugunja), emphasized the need for expeditious handling of the NADCO Report's recommendations.

"It will require this House to dispense with the Report in the normal way as quickly as possible to give room for the processing of the attendant instruments that come with it," Hon. Wandayi said.

As the House reconvenes, Hon. Ichung'wah has stressed the importance of readiness among Members, citing the substantial numbers of legislative proposals awaiting consideration.

He commended the leadership of the House and Members for the dedication and cooperation exhibited in the last session in which the House met statutory timelines in respect of matters before it. During the Second Session, the House held 122 regular sittings, two special sittings and one joint sitting. It debated 114 Bills, 18 of which were passed and assented to.

Hon. Ichung'wah commended the Committee Chairpersons for their active involvement, particularly in concluding reports on the vetting of public officers such as the Chairperson of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and the Director-General of the National Intelligence Service (NIS). In total, the House approved fifty-one (51) nominees to various state and public offices, in addition to the adoption of several other key motions and committee reports.

He also highlighted the passage of significant legislation, including laws regarding Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which aim to revolutionize healthcare accessibility and quality in Kenya, and the NG-CDF legislation to expand on the scope of the fund to include climate change matters.

Other priority businesses are those to expedite the ratification of treaties, agreements and sessional papers that were before various committees of the House.

They include the following:

- ☑ The African Convention on Cross Border Cooperation (Niamey Convention);
- ☑ The Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting;
- ☑ Protocol to the Constitutive Act of the African Union relating to the Pan-African Parliament;
- ☑ Agreement on the Establishment of the International Vaccine Institute; and
- ☑ Sessional Paper No. 5 of 2023 on the National Policy on Labour Migration.

Committee on Administration and Internal Security engages State Department over cybercrime, private security regulations.



The Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security, Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (second right) receiving copies of the proposed regulations from the PS, State Department for Interior and National Administration, Dr. Raymond Omollo (third right), as other Committee Members and the State Department's staff look on

The Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security chaired by Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West) last week held a meeting with Principal Secretary, State Department of Interior and National Administration, Dr. Raymond Omollo and other officials to discuss two draft regulations which are at the pre-publication stage.

PS Omollo and his team took Members through the draft Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Regulations and the Private Security (General) Regulations.

During the meeting, Hon. Tongoyo underscored the need to have the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes (Critical Information Infrastructure and Cybercrime Management) Regulations considered expeditiously so as to curb the rise of cyber related crimes in the country. The regulations are meant to unlock

the operationalization of the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act, 2018.

Recognizing the urgent need to have the regulations operationalized, the Committee through the Chairperson gave a nod to the PS to publish them for consideration by the House.

“Hon. Members, I reckon that we need to have these regulations operationalized in view of the influx of cyber related crimes in the country. I am therefore of the view that we allow the State Department to proceed to prepare an Explanatory Memorandum and together with it submit the draft regulations to the House for consideration”, Hon. Tongoyo said.

The PS told the Committee that though the State Department had already engaged two other Committees; the Departmental Committee on Information, Communication and Innovation and the Committee on Delegated Legislation over the regulations, they were keen to

garner more input from the Committee on Administration and Internal Security.

Turning to the Private Security (General) Regulations, the legislators noted that it is crucial to ensure that the compensation for private security guards is commensurate with the risks that they face.

The lawmakers sought clarification on a number of provisions proposed in the regulations such as the one that allows private guards to arrest a person who is suspected to have committed an offence and immediately hand them over to the nearest police station, and to search a person on entry or exit of a building.

They noted that though the provisions were alive to the current security and safety threats in the county, it is important to put the necessary safeguards to curb misuse of the powers.

We will tackle challenges in education sector, Committee on Education says

Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Education, Hon. Julius Melly (Tinderet), has affirmed the Committee's dedication to addressing the challenges faced by Kenyans in the education sector.

Speaking during the a meeting to review and discuss the integrated work plan for 2024, Hon. Melly reiterated the Committee's unwavering commitment to upholding high standards in the critical education sector.

“As a Committee, we shall endeavor to be responsive to the needs of Kenyans in this key sector,” Hon. Melly said.

During the session, Members evaluated the Committee's performance over the past year, assessing both successes and shortcomings, and engaged in discussions on strategies for improvement.

It was observed during the meeting that several proposals put forward by the Committee in the past year, particularly those outlined in its report following a nationwide inquiry into allegations of cheating in the 2022 KCSE exams, had been implemented by the Ministry of Education.

Hon. Melly highlighted a significant proposal directed to the Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC). Following a visit to the Council, the Committee urged the management to cease using SMS messages to relay candidates' results due to the associated high costs.

“We are pleased that KNEC heeded our recommendation. When the last examinations results were released, candidates accessed their results through the website,” he said.



From left to right, Hon. Timothy Kipchumba (Marakwet West), Dick Maungu (Luanda) and Clive Gisairo (Kitutu Masaba) sharing notes during a meeting the review and discuss the 2024 work plan

Joint Committee told that Affordable Housing Bill addresses issues raised by courts

Legislators have been given the assurance that the Affordable Housing Bill, 2023, addresses concerns raised by the court regarding the Housing Levy's constitutionality. This is according to the Attorney General, Hon. Justin Muturi who appeared before the Joint-Committee on Finance and National Planning and, that of Housing, Urban Planning, and Public Works.

The proposed Bill aims to establish the Affordable Housing Fund, ensuring access to affordable housing in alignment with the Constitution's Article 43(1)(b).

The Joint-Committee sought guidance on addressing court concerns, potential overlaps with the Constitution's Fourth Schedule, and compatibility with the Housing Act.

AG Muturi said, "In my opinion, the Bill has addressed the issues raised by the court."

He emphasized the Bill's contribution to legal certainty, good governance, transparency, and accountability. AG Muturi urged the Committee to institute amendments for comprehensive coverage.

Regarding housing functions' potential overlap between National and county governments, the AG highlighted that while the National Government handles Housing Policy, counties manage planning and development, including housing.

He noted provisions for consultation and cooperation between the two levels.

Muturi emphasized Senate involvement in the Bill, as it impacts counties. He cited Article 6(2) of the Constitution, stating that both levels of government must collaborate based on consultation.

On the land issue, the AG clarified that the Affordable Housing Bill need not replicate provisions from the Land Act concerning affordable housing units on public land. He assured the Committee that existing legislation adequately addresses this aspect.

The Attorney General's insights underscore the Bill's alignment with constitutional principles and the judiciary's concerns, signaling progress in establishing a legal framework for affordable housing. The legislative process, he noted, is ongoing, encouraging the Committee to refine the Bill.



Members of the Joint Committee led by the Co-Chairperson, Hon. Johanna Ng'eno (4th right) exchange pleasantries with Attorney General Hon. Muturi after a meeting last week. From left to right are: Hon. Joseph Makilap (Baringo North), Hon. Joseph Munyoro (Kigumo), Hon. CPA Julius Ruto (Kesses) Hon. Mboni Mwalika (Kitui Rural), Hon. (Dr.) John Ariko (Turkana South) and Hon. George Sunkuya (Kajiado West)

Members engage the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa on Food and Nutrition Security



Members drawn from the Committee on Agriculture and Livestock and Budget and Appropriations Committees pose for a photo with representatives from AGRA after their meeting last week

Members of Parliament from the Agriculture and Livestock and Budget and Appropriations Committees recently engaged with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) to discuss the role of Parliament in enhancing Kenya's food system.

During the engagement, legislators had the opportunity to discuss and enhance their understanding of mechanisms to implement national food system strategies effectively.

Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, Hon. (Dr.) John Mutunga (Tigania West), emphasized the need for increased policy interventions in the agricultural sector. He highlighted that agriculture serves as the economic backbone for most African countries.

"This meeting is crucial for all key stakeholders as it sets the pace for developing policies that will drive the green revolution in Africa," Hon. (Dr.) Mutunga said.

Several Members echoed these sentiments, emphasizing their role in transforming Agri-food systems in Kenya through legal frameworks and budget allocations.

AGRA Country Director, Mr. John Macharia, stressed the importance of involving lawmakers in promoting sustainable food systems across Africa.

"Through engagement with Parliamentarians, AGRA aims to create a strong collective agency, advocating for Parliamentary support in implementing national food system strategies. This includes addressing critical areas identified by the African Food Systems Parliamentarian Network (AFSPaN), such as regional legislation for enhanced food trade and markets," explained Mr. Macharia.

The engagement between AGRA, the Association of AFSPaN and Members of Parliament to work towards achieving the targets set out in the Malabo Declaration on matters agriculture, that were committed by Africa Countries in 2014, to eradicate hunger and enhance inter Africa trade.

PIC on Commercial Affairs and Energy probes Authorities over audit queries



Chairperson of PIC on Commercial Affairs and Energy, Hon. David Pkosing, seeking clarification on queries emanating from their financial records of the Kenya Maritime Authority

The National Assembly Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy has separately probed the management of the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) and the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) on audit queries emanating from their financial records.

On KMA, the Committee by Chairperson, Hon. David Pkosing probed queries raised by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) between the 2018/2019 and 2020/2021 financial years.

Among the queries raised on KMA, were unconfirmed revenues from Non-Exchange Transactions. According to the Auditor General's monthly and annual reports on imports and export, fees collected were not provided for audit, even though separate records indicated that the Authority had collected merchant shopping levies totalling Kshs. 1.6 Million and Kenya Revenue Authority's (KRA) collection cost amounting to Kshs. 38.7 Million.

"As a result, the accuracy and competence of the revenue arising from the levies of Ksh. 1.7 Million could not be confirmed," reads the Auditor General's report in part.

During the probe, KMA Director General, Eng. Martin Munga took Members on a tour of the Authority's Headquarters, whose construction cost is part of the queries under probe.



A section of the Members of the Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy when they visited Kenya Maritime Authority Headquarters in Mombasa last week

According to OAG, there were variations in the overall construction cost of the building by Kshs. 505 Million accrued during several stages of the tendering processes.

"That is why we are demanding for that detailed breakdown. Ksh 505 Million is no small money," said Hon. Pkosing.

Also under probe were rent expenses totalling Kshs. 2 Million incurred by the KMA to temporarily resettle tenants of Reef Apartment Building whose stability was compromised during excavation for the foundation of the Headquarters complex.

The KPA team on the other hand was led by Managing Director, Capt. William Ruto, who was put to task over the authority's queries between the 2019/2020 and the 2020/2021 Financial Years.

Among the queries noted by the OAG, is under-charging of revenue from storage of containers to a tune of Kshs. 6,174,054,000, and validity of waiver on storage of Kshs. 242,268,295 during the 2019/2020 Financial year.

The Committee also probed concerns of unconfirmed license revenues totaling Kshs. 92,566,974 collected, as well as the propriety and validity of basic salaries amounting to Kshs. 19,520,491,000 paid in the year ended 30 June, 2020.

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Registrar of the Judiciary, Mr. Paul Ndemo, presented before the Committee the budget implementation for the Financial Year 2023/24 and the budget proposals for Financial Year 2024/2025.

Members were also taken through the vision outlined in the Social Transformation through Access to Justice (STAJ) blueprint 2023 to 2033; whereby the Judiciary aims to establish High Court and Courts of equal status in every County, and Magistrates' Courts in every Sub-County.

"The Office of Registrar Magistrates Courtiers has received 62 requests for establishment of Sub-County Courts, including five courts in Nairobi, which were started by the Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS)," said Mr. Ndemo.

The Registrar of Political Parties, Ms. Anne Nderitu, and officials from the Electoral Law and Governance Institute for Africa (ELGIA), also

presented before JLAC the post-election evaluation report, and based on the findings and recommendations in the report, members discussed further legal reforms that can be included in the Political Parties Act, as the office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) works on the proposal that will be presented before the Committee.

Hon. Murugara advised ORPP to propose their amendments on the Act clause by clause, and present the proposal before the Committee soon, assuring them of JLAC's support as they draft the amendments.

"The 2022-2027 electoral cycle is important and calls for a timely and consolidated transition of electoral reforms following a fourth governance transition and in the wake of the prescribed timelines of the delimitation of boundaries. JLAC is committed to spearheading the enactment of laws on this matter," said Hon. Murugara.

Quotes of The Week



"People launder money in many ways in this country. They engage in wash wash and the black market but there is a new system today. I wish the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) could look into it. You enter into a place to buy something and you are told that you cannot pay by card. You can only pay by M-Pesa and you must withdraw money. You ask them why you cannot use a Till Number, or a Paybill number or a card. When the value of your shopping amounts to Ksh100,000, the cashier refuses to let you pay with a card. They have changed the system. They say that you can pay by card, but you are supposed to pay for the charges. I urge the KRA to look around for shops doing this because they are many."

Hon. Beatrice Elachi (Dagoretti North), contributing to debate on a Motion on Approval of the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering (Criminal Assets Recovery Fund) Regulations, 2023, on Thursday 7th December, 2023



"It is important to note that the Asset Recovery Unit or the Asset Recovery Agency is the agency tasked under POCAMLA, 2009, to deal with the asset recovery. There have been murmurs from the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) that this agency encroaches on their mandate, but we have constantly said that the EACC deals with assets of corruption while the Asset Recovery Agency deals with assets recovered from anti-money laundering and proceeds of other crime. While corruption is one of those crimes, there are other crimes from which assets can be recovered and therefore that does not fall within the mandate of the EACC."

Hon. George Murugara (Tharaka), seconding a Motion on Approval of the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering (Criminal Assets Recovery Fund) Regulations, 2023, on Thursday 7th December, 2023

"I know of people who have this kind of money, but because there is no regulation to control this, you cannot do anything but stare as it prospers in this country. Due to this, most of our young persons, particularly our children at the age of 18 to 35 years, are not keen when it comes to looking for employment. You will find that most of them are spending their time in casinos doing funny jobs when there are persons who have been recruited to ensure that this kind of business is flourishing in the country. I support this particular Bill that will ensure that this kind of practice is controlled in the country if not banned completely or taken care of"



Hon. Malulu Injendi (Malava), contributing to debate on a Motion on Approval of the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering (Criminal Assets Recovery Fund) Regulations, 2023, on Thursday 7th December, 2023

The recovery of proceeds of corruption is an extremely important factor in the fight against corruption. People make huge money to live extravagantly exposing our youth to what seems like a good life yet they pervert the thinking of our youth and the morals of our society. So, it is extremely important for us to address recovery of proceeds of crime. This is an important Report because of late; we have seen the EACC doing a good job of recovery. The agencies dealing with recovery of proceeds from crimes should be strengthened. Once again, we are dealing with an important issue casually. Looking at this Report, its observations are contrary to recommendations."



Hon. (Dr.) James Nyikal (Seme), contributing to debate on a Motion on Approval of the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering (Criminal Assets Recovery Fund) Regulations, 2023, on Thursday 7th December, 2023

Public Debt and Privatization Committee holds discussion on public debt management oversight

The Public Debt and Privatization Committee chaired by Hon. Abdi Shurie (Balambala) held a two-day collaborative workshop with officials from the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) and Institute of Public Finance (IPF) to evaluate Parliament's capacity for overseeing Public Debt Management.

During the workshop, Head of Practice Accountability at WFD, Mr. Franklin De Vrieze, emphasized the role of transparency in public debt management. He noted that, transparency will help the public to understand the goals and push the authorities to make a credible commitment to meet them, hold governments accountable, increase investors' confidence and reduce the risk of future criticism by the public.



Chairperson, Public Debt and Privatization Committee, Hon. Abdi Shurie explaining a point during the Committee's meeting with officials of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) and Institute of Public Finance

In addition to that, Mr. Vrieze cited the need for Parliament to approve the Debt Management Strategy, citing that it will entrench accountability and transparency in borrowing decisions, enable refinement of the strategy, build consensus among all the parties involved, and enable Parliamentary scrutiny of regular reports on the implementation of the Debt Management Strategy.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Institute of Public Finance, Mr. James Muraguri, highlighted three key roles that Parliament can inculcate to oversee debt which include establishing a broad legal framework for public debt management, ensuring that debt management is conducted in accordance with the established legal framework, and making full disclosure on all the debt acquired and their status.

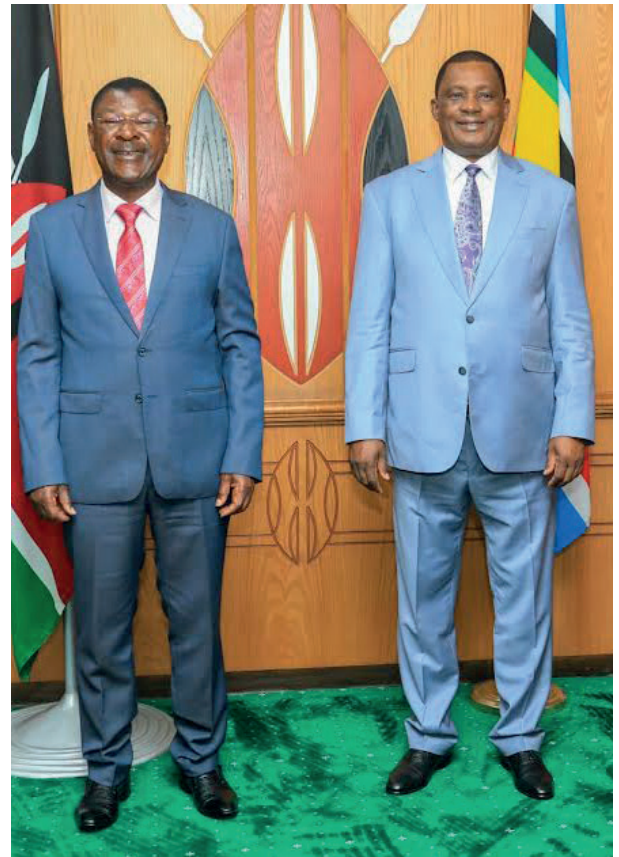
Hon. Abdi Shurie, thanked WFD and IPF for all the insights shared during the workshop, assuring them that they will continue to engage each other, in a bid to create effective debt oversight mechanisms.

CLIQUE & CLICKS

Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning, Hon. Kuria Kimani (in blue shirt and tie), Hon. Paul Beigo (in Black and white tie) and Hon. Joseph Makilap (in blue shirt) interact with workers at the Affordable Housing Project in Homa Bay County. The Committee was in the county last month to conduct public hearings on the Affordable Housing Bill, 2023



Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Samuel Njoroge (left) receiving a gift from the Auditor-General, FCPA, Nancy Gathungu (right) after he paid her a courtesy call in her office last week. The two explored how to strengthen partnership between the two institutions for effective oversight in the use and management of public resources



Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Gladys Boss (right), Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning, Hon. Kuria Kimani (centre) pose for a photo with Uasin Gishu County Governor, Dr. Jonathan Bii (left) at the Governor's Office. The Committee on Finance and National Planning was in the county for public hearings on the Affordable Housing Bill

Speaker of the National Assembly, the Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula (left) pose for a photo with the country's Attorney General, his predecessor the Hon. Justin B. Muturi (right). Hon. Muturi paid the Speaker a courtesy call at his office at Parliament Buildings on Wednesday, February 7, 2024. The two leaders discussed crucial national matters, emphasizing on collaborative strategies to enhance the functionality of their offices geared towards promoting transparency, and fostering good governance. The meeting served as a valuable opportunity for the two leaders to draw shared experiences for the betterment of our nation.

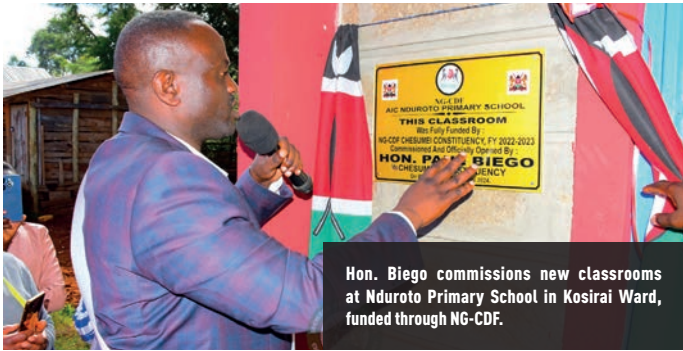


BUNGE MASHINANI

Chesumei MP upgrades several schools in his constituency

Chesumei MP, Hon. Paul Biego has spearheaded the upgrading of public schools within the constituency using allocations from NG-CDF. This initiative is grounded in the belief that creating a conducive learning environment for students provides them with the opportunity to excel and realize their full potential.

Addressing the importance of this initiative, Hon. Biego said, “My administration is committed to nurturing a dynamic and favorable learn-



Hon. Biego commissions new classrooms at Nduroto Primary School in Kosirai Ward, funded through NG-CDF.

ing atmosphere that empowers the students of Chesumei Constituency to flourish. Our Schools' Upgrade Program is dedicated to furnishing essential space and resources for students, thereby creating an environment conducive to learning.”

Embu MP launches Restoring Hope Program for teen mothers



Embu MP, Hon. Njoki Njeru testing one of the wheelchairs during the launch of Restoring Hope Programme targeting teen mothers who dropped out of school as a result of pregnancy

Embu MP, Hon. Njoki Njeru launched “Restoring Hope Program” targeting teen mothers who had previously stopped schooling as a result of pregnancy.

The initiative aims at not only restoring hope and dignity to the teen mothers, but also giving hope to their families.

During the launch, Hon. Njoki said, “It is important that parents, teachers and the community at large, support teen mothers to enable them pick up from where they left by enrolling back to school under the NGAAF scholarship program”.

The launch was attended by Leader of the Majority Party, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah (Kikuyu), Hon. Njeri Maina (Kirinyaga) and Hon. Lydia Haika (Taita Taveta).

Kajiado East MP commissions chief's camp in Sholinke Ward

Residents of Kajiado East have a reason to smile after their area MP, Hon. Kakuta Maimai commissioned the Olooltepes Chief's camp in Oloosirkon, Sholinke ward, courtesy of the area's NG-CDF.

Speaking during the opening ceremony, Hon. Maimai said that the Chief's camp will help in delivering essential Government services to the community.

“This facility is a vital step towards enhancing security and delivering essential Government services to the community. I am grateful for the progress,” Hon. Maimai said.



Hon. Kakuta Maimai (Kajiado East) delivering a speech moments before opening the Olooltepes Chief's Camp in Oloosirkon, Sholinke Ward

Jomvu MP promotes local tourism through water sports

Jomvu MP, Hon. Bady Twalib Bady, continues to promote tourism in his constituency through water sports. One of his flagship initiatives, the Jomvu Annual Boat Racing competition was held at Mkupe Creek in Miritini ward.

The 2023 edition of the Boat Racing event witnessed a remarkable turnout, with a large number of participants and spectators showing up to witness their favourite Beach Management Units (BMUs) showcase their prowess in thrilling races.

The locals recognized the events dual impact on the community. Not only does it provide a platform for showcasing their talents and promoting local culture, but it also serves as a catalyst for economic growth.



Jomvu residents turned up in numbers to watch the Beach Management Units (BMUs) take part in the water sports during December holidays

Speaker re-elected as member of the Standing Committee on CSPOC, to represent Africa Region

Speaker of the National Assembly, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula was re-elected as the Africa bloc representative in the Standing Committee of the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC).

He was elected by consensus during the 27th Convention of the conference held in Kampala, Uganda, from February 3rd to 6th, 2024.

Dr. Wetang'ula's exceptional leadership during the convention led to his re-election for a second term. In the CSPOC Standing Committee, he will represent Africa alongside the Speakers of Ghana and the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, having hosted the conference, automatically retained the role of Committee Chairperson for institutional memory and continuity, in accordance with CSPOC rules.

The Standing Committee is responsible for proposing the draft agenda for the next Conference, reviewing standing rules, considering financial matters, and deciding on dates, venues, and procedures for future Conferences.

During the convention, critical issues affecting the African continent were discussed, including climate change effects, legislation impacting African clusters, regional unity, and nominations for African Representatives to the CSPOC Standing Committee.

In his keynote address on climate change, the Speaker emphasized the power of legislatures to address the challenges posed by the changing world.

He stressed the need to safeguard natural resources for a sustainable ecosystem, urging Parliaments to prioritize climate change as an emergency.

The convention, attended by thirty-three Speakers and Presiding Officers from over 25 Commonwealth Parliaments globally, addressed various issues, including inclusive Parliaments, security for Members of Parliaments, health and well-being of legislators, gender, and youth governance.



Speaker, Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula during a procession of the Commonwealth Speakers attending the 27th CSPOC convention



Speaker Wetang'ula delivering the keynote address on climate change during the 27th CSPOC convention held in Kampala, Uganda

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“Conversations around AI are in two distinct brackets. One majors on AI solving all problems and the second one is AI is spelling doom, but as experts what are the global conversations happening around it? And how can we leverage on it as a country so that we are not left behind,” Hon. Kiarie posed.

In response, Mr. Gakuru told the Committee that there was a midpoint framework that exists in every sphere and that the major fear of AI replacing HR cannot be accurately predicted however, there was also a possibility of it creating more jobs once incorporated and the right framework put in place for its implementation.



CPST INVITES YOU TO ITS 10TH WEBINAR CONFERENCE



UNPACKING THE BUDGET POLICY STATEMENT FOR FY 2024/25

OUR SPEAKERS



**DR. ABRAHAM
RUGO MURIU**

COUNTRY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL BUDGET
PARTNERSHIP KENYA
KEY NOTE SPEAKER



**HON. NDINDI NYORO,
CBS, M.P.**

CHAIRPERSON,
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET &
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
DISCUSSANT



**MRS SERAH
KIOKO, MBS**

DEPUTY CLERK,
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MODERATOR



**PROF. NYOKABI
KAMAU, EBS**

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